

FAIRY TAIL

9



Hiro Mashima Creator of *Rave Master*

FAIRY TAIL

9



HIRO MASHIMA

FAIRY TAILS

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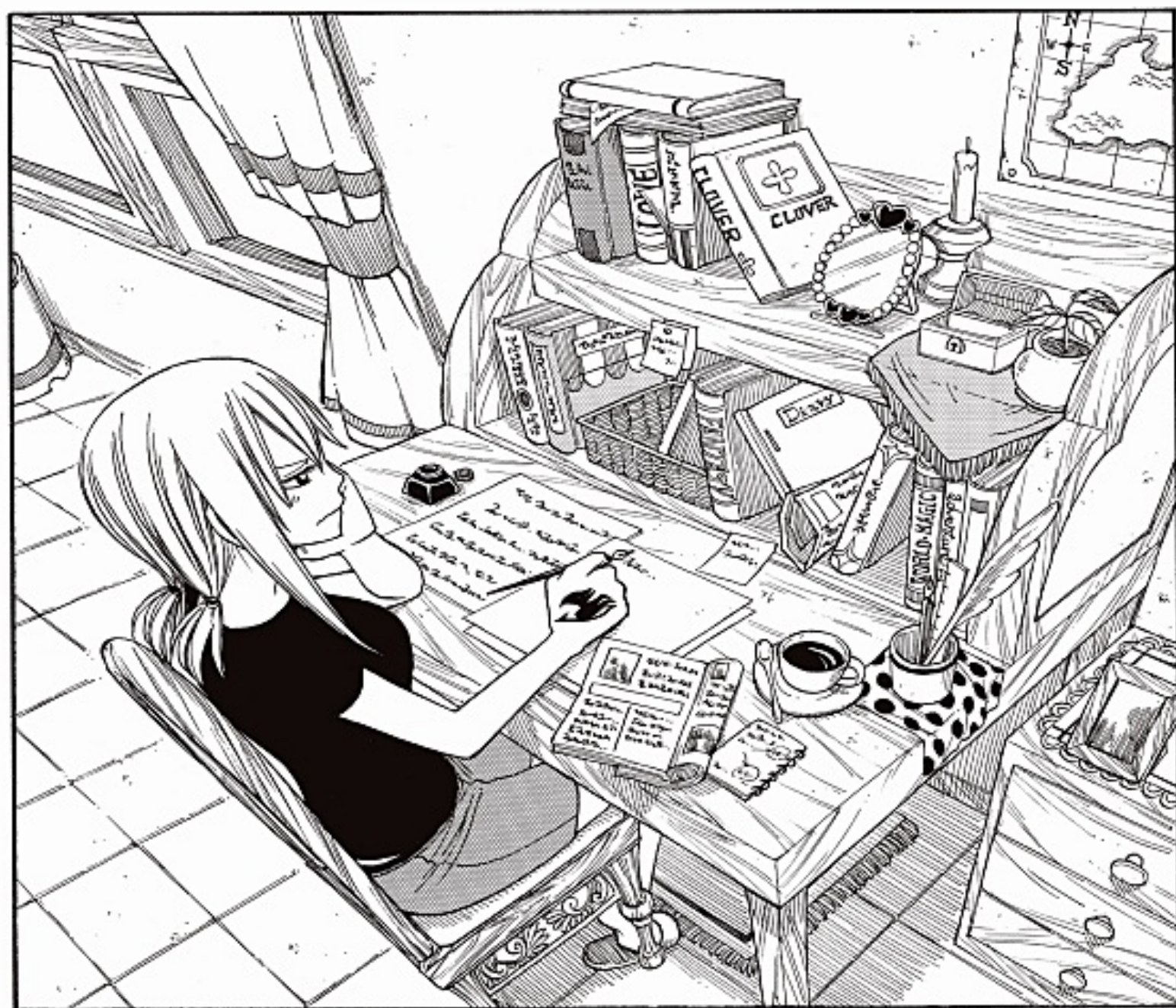
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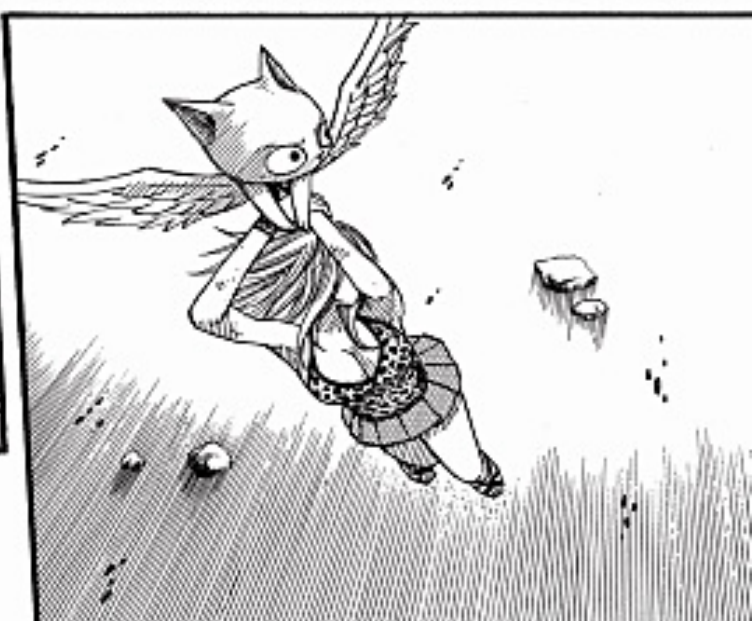
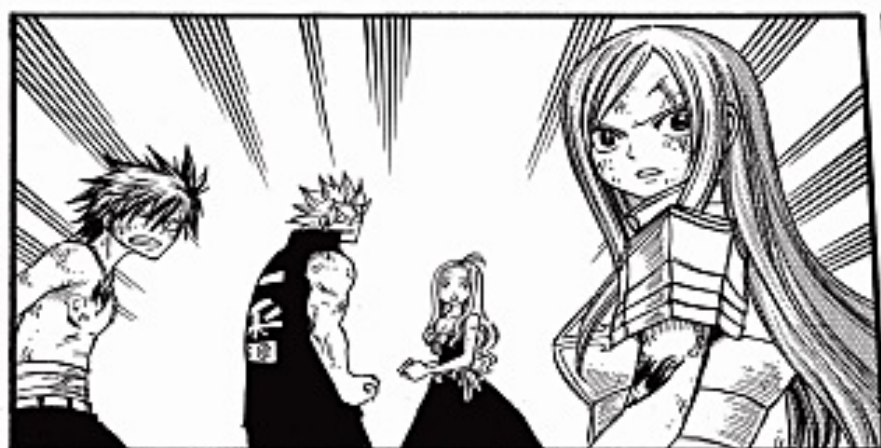
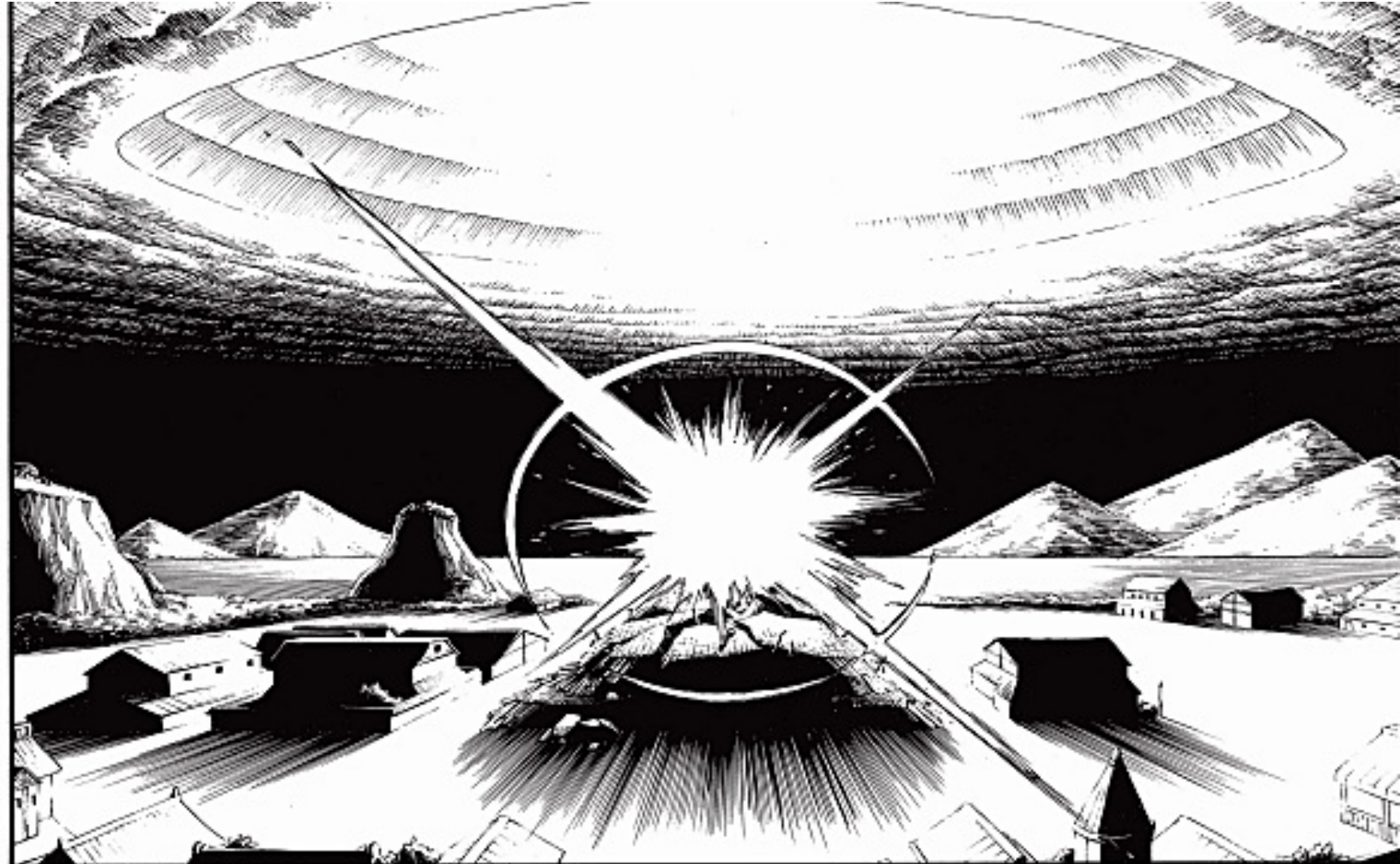
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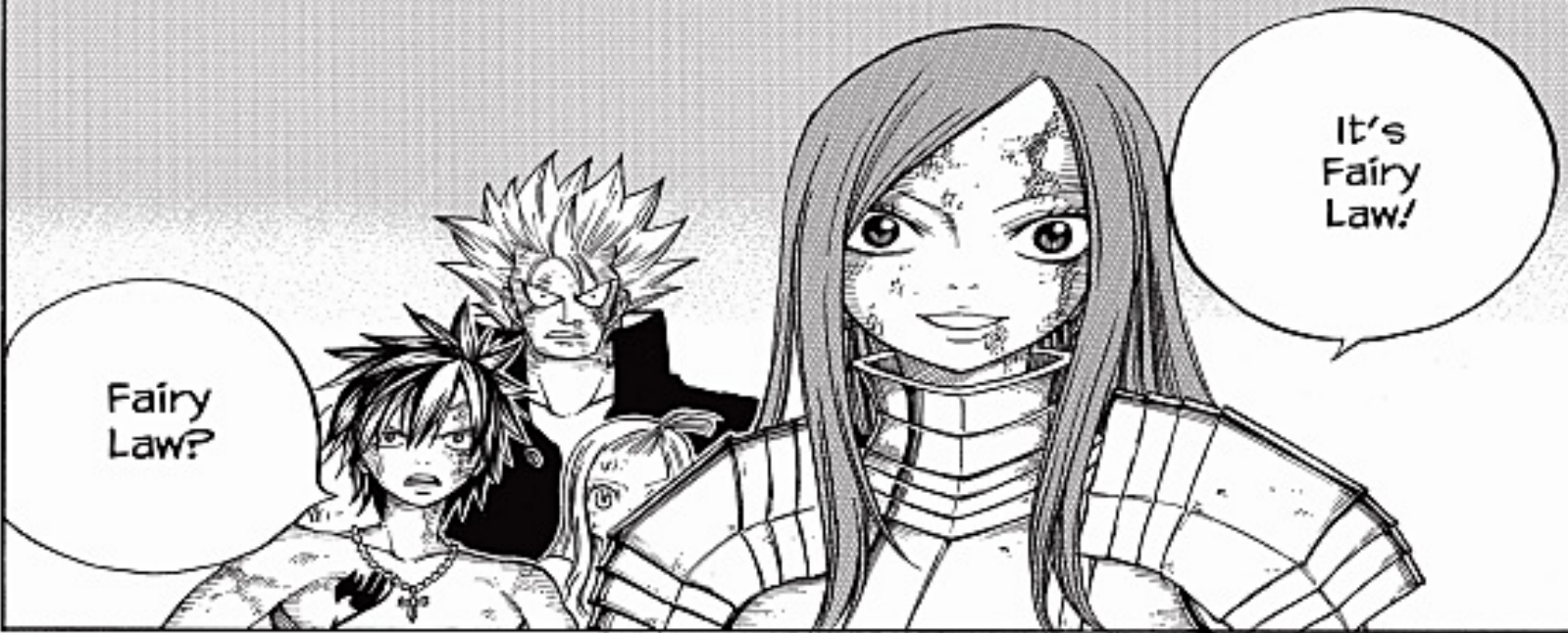
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FAIRY TAIL



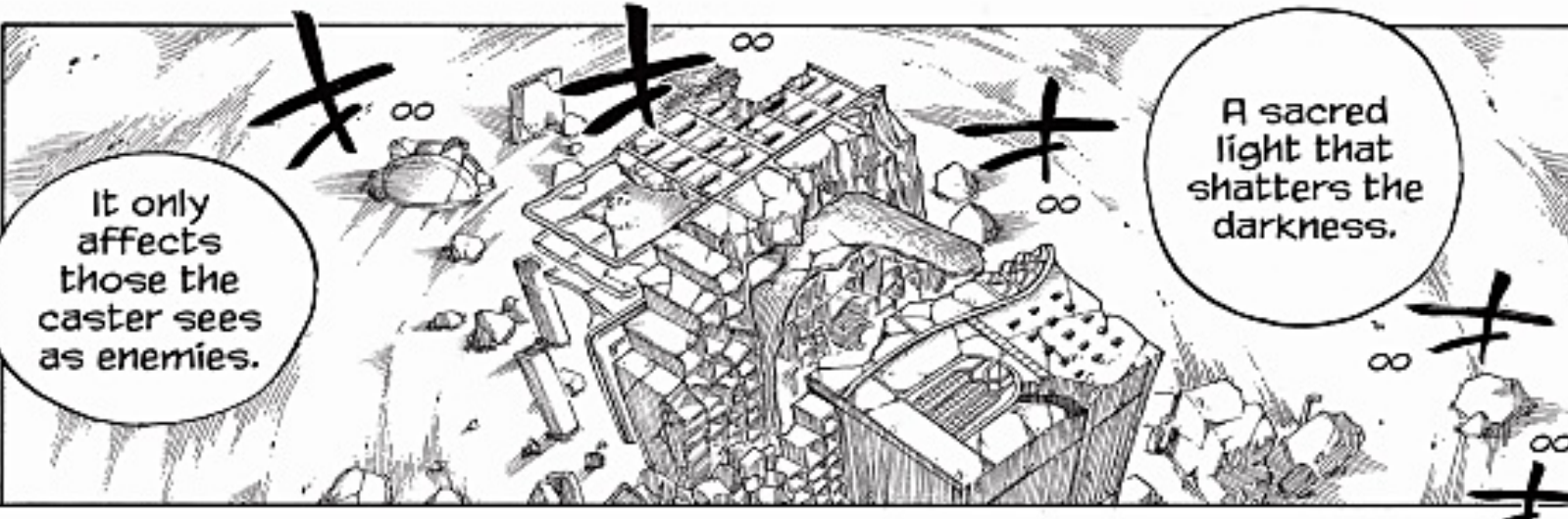
Chapter 66: Like-Minded





Fairy Law?

It's Fairy Law!



It only affects those the caster sees as enemies.

A sacred light that shatters the darkness.



It's considered one of the legendary great magics.

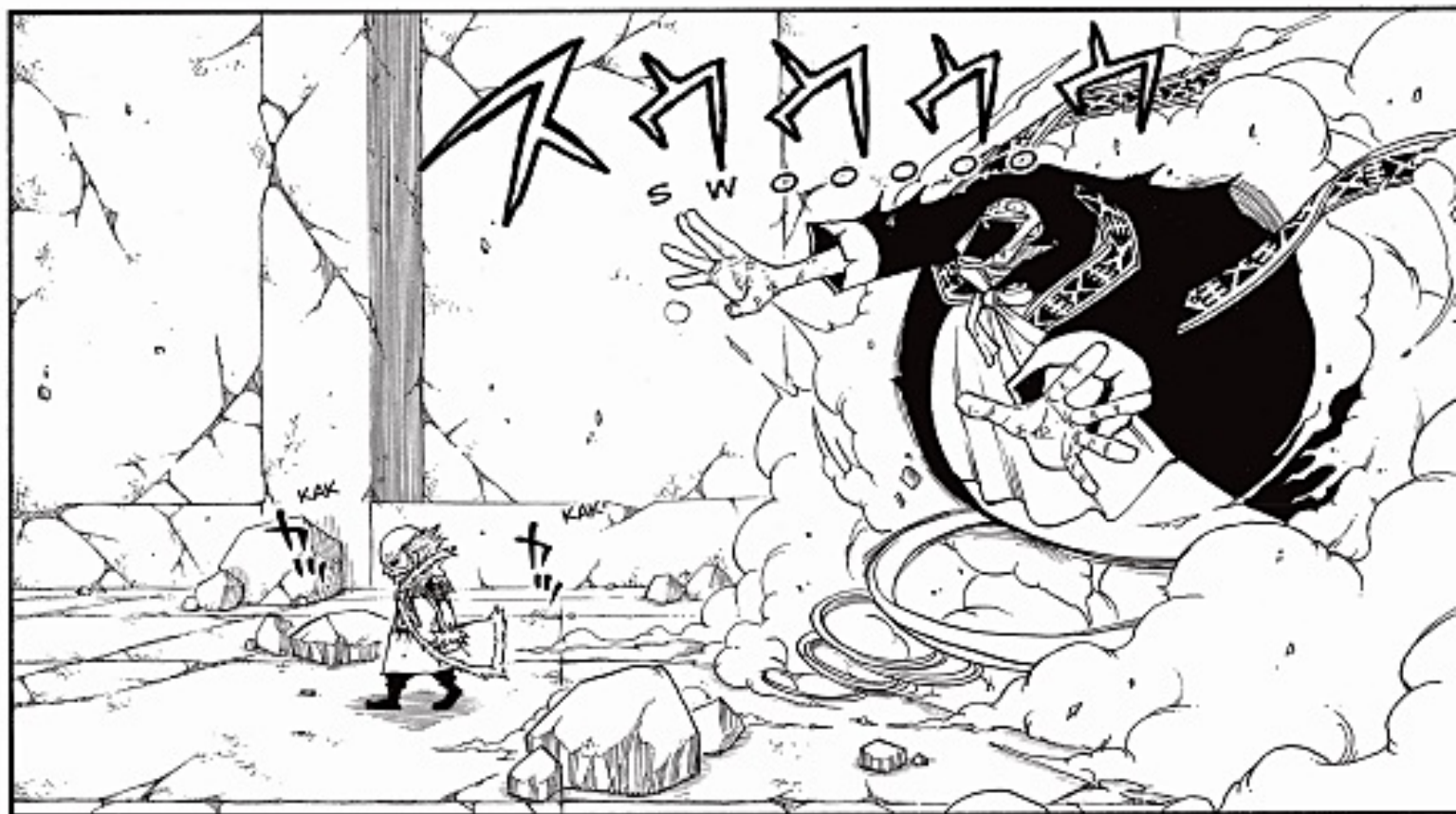




From now on,
you will have
to worry about
your safety
constantly.

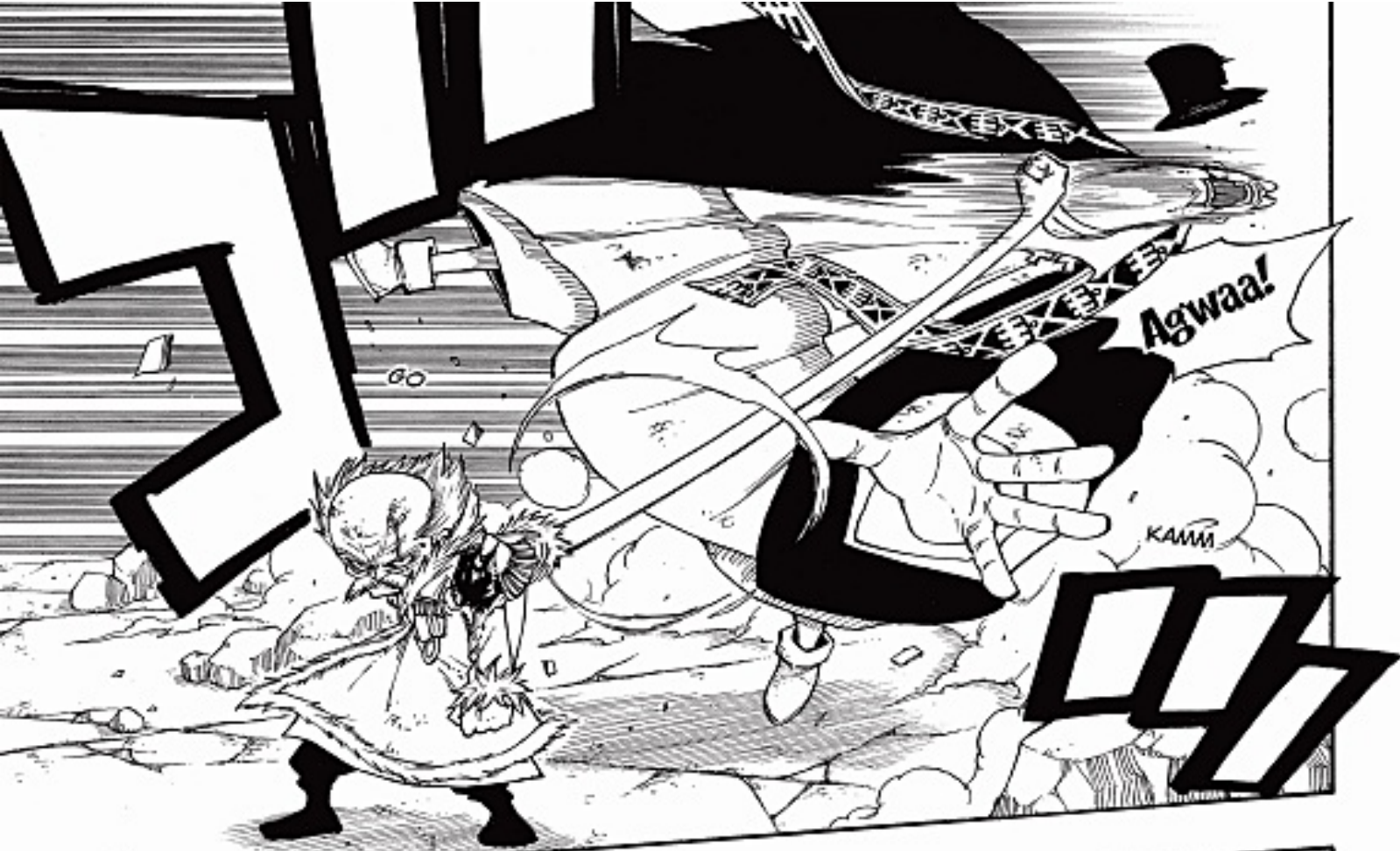
Both
of us
will.

Now that
you're a bungler
of such epic
proportions, the
Council can't
overlook your
actions
anymore.

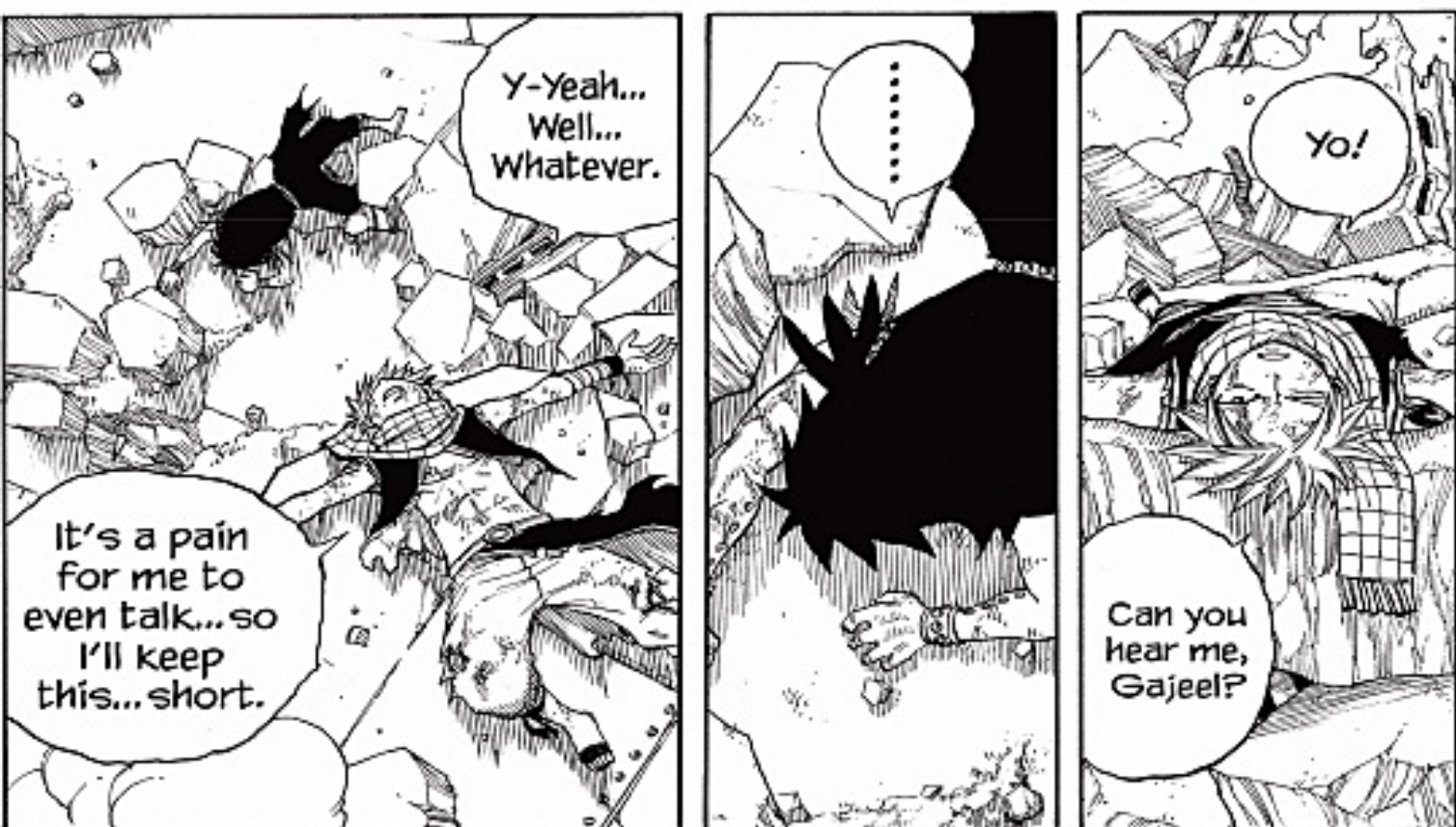
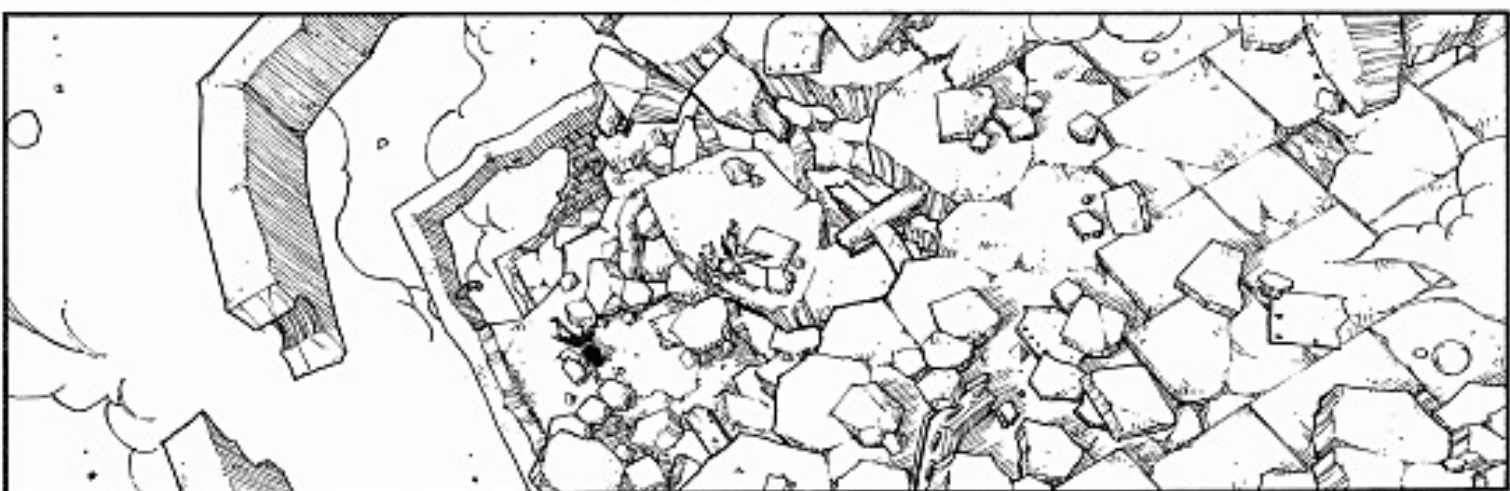


Now
he's
mine
!!!!

It's just
like the last
time!!! He
doesn't
even see me
coming!!!







Where...
did you
learn
it...?

ROLL

Your
dragon-
slaying
magic...

Shut
your
hole...

You can tell
me that at
least, right?

Hey! This is the
first time I've ever
met anybody who
uses the same
magic as me!!!

So you
were taught
by a dragon
after all!

The Steel
Dragon,
Metalicana.

! Metalicana.

Who
knows
?

What
happened
to the
dragon?

You
too?

Ouch...

Oww...

And I told
you that I
don't know,
you trash!!!

I • asked •
you • what •
happened
?!!!

It
disappeared
on me!!

?!!

What
did
you
say?!!

Just talking
to you makes
me feel like
my brains
have burned
to ash!!



*Gone,
without
even
saying a
word!*

One day,
Metalicana
just wasn't
there
anymore!



!!!!



Are you saying
that you
know where
Metalicana is?

Don't be
stupid!!! The
one I'm looking for
is Igneel, the Fire
Dragon!!!

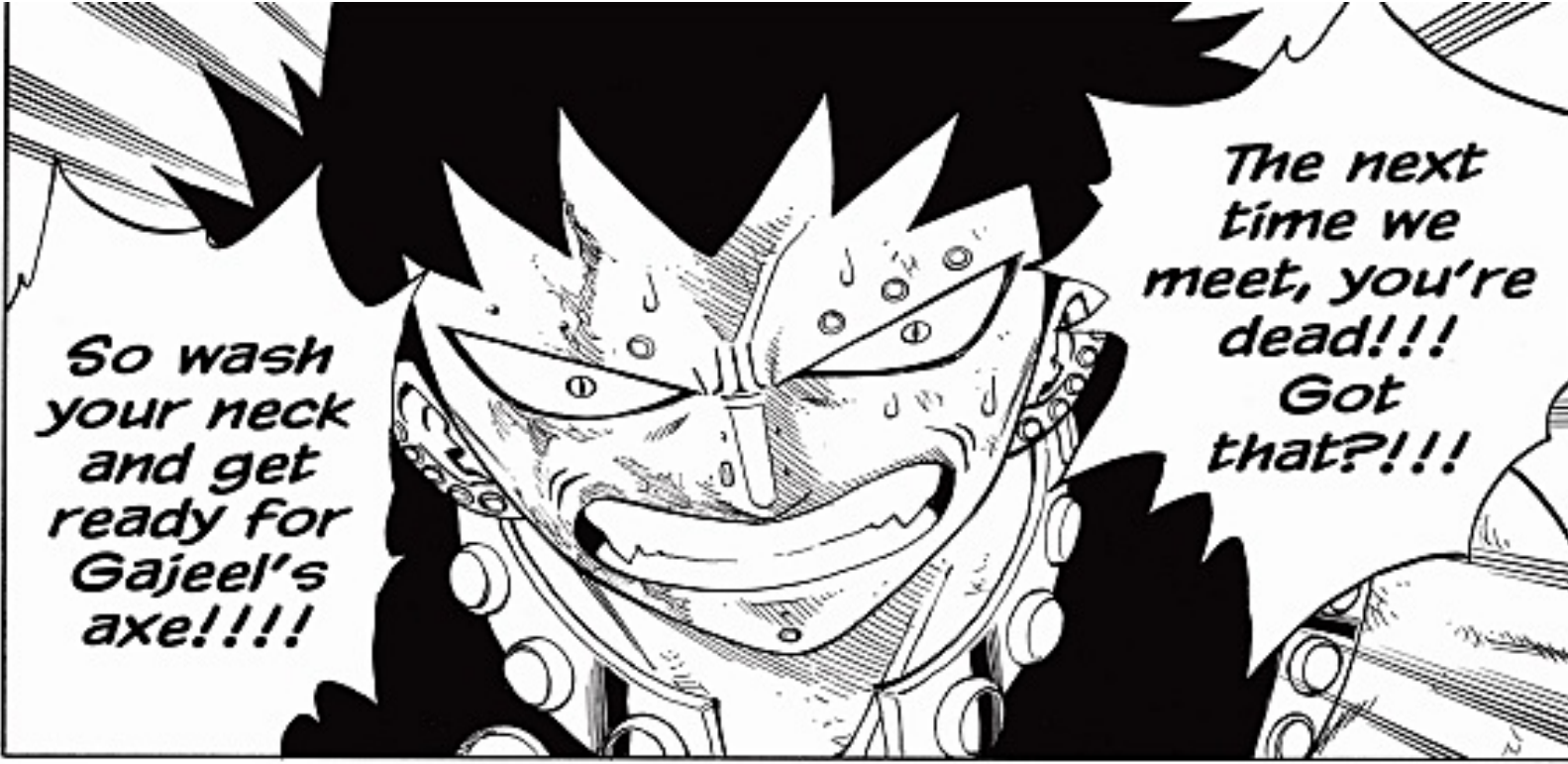
!!!!

H-Hey...

That
wouldn't be
seven years ago
on the seventh
day of the
seventh month,
would it?

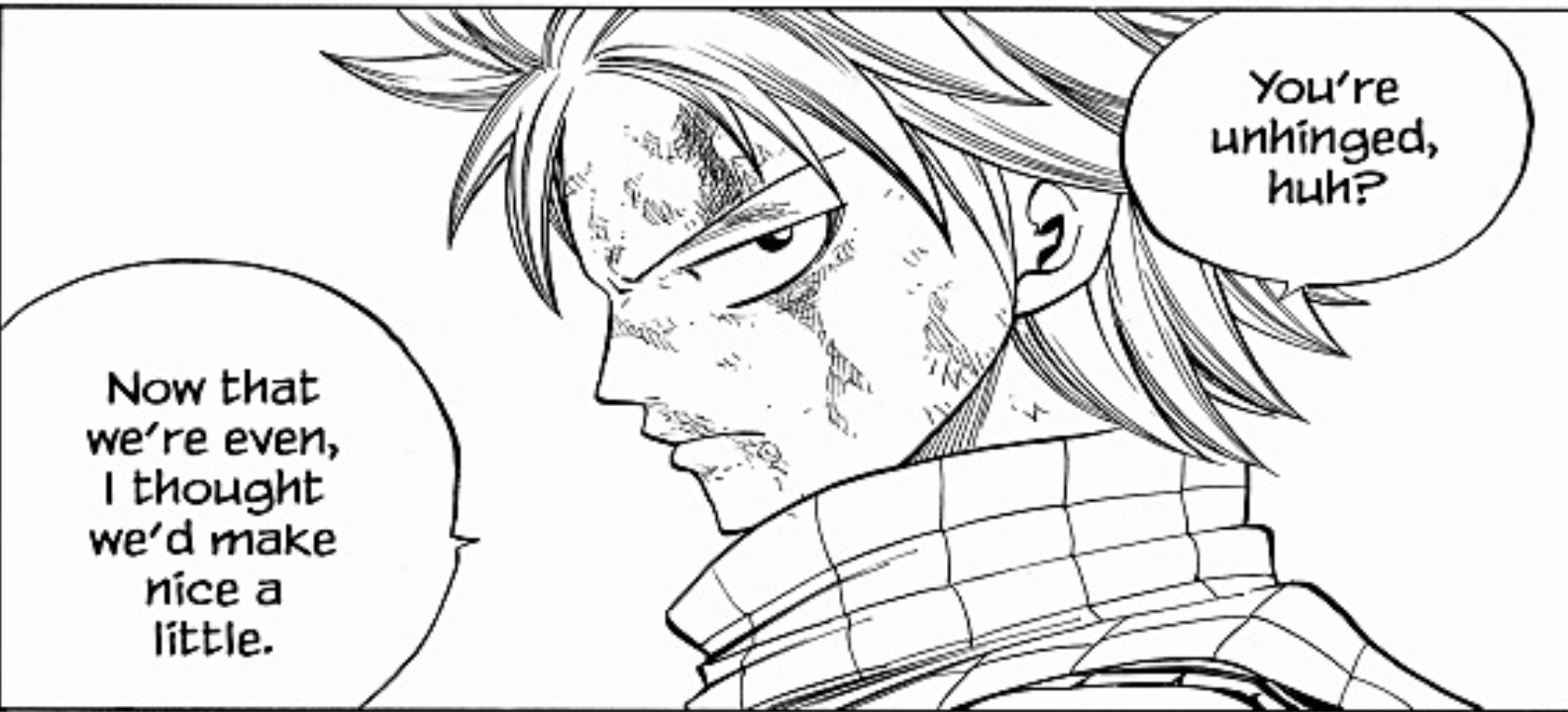
Dammit!!
That stupid,
selfish...





*So wash
your neck
and get
ready for
Gajeel's
axe!!!!*

*The next
time we
meet, you're
dead!!!
Got
that?!!!*



Now that
we're even,
I thought
we'd make
nice a
little.

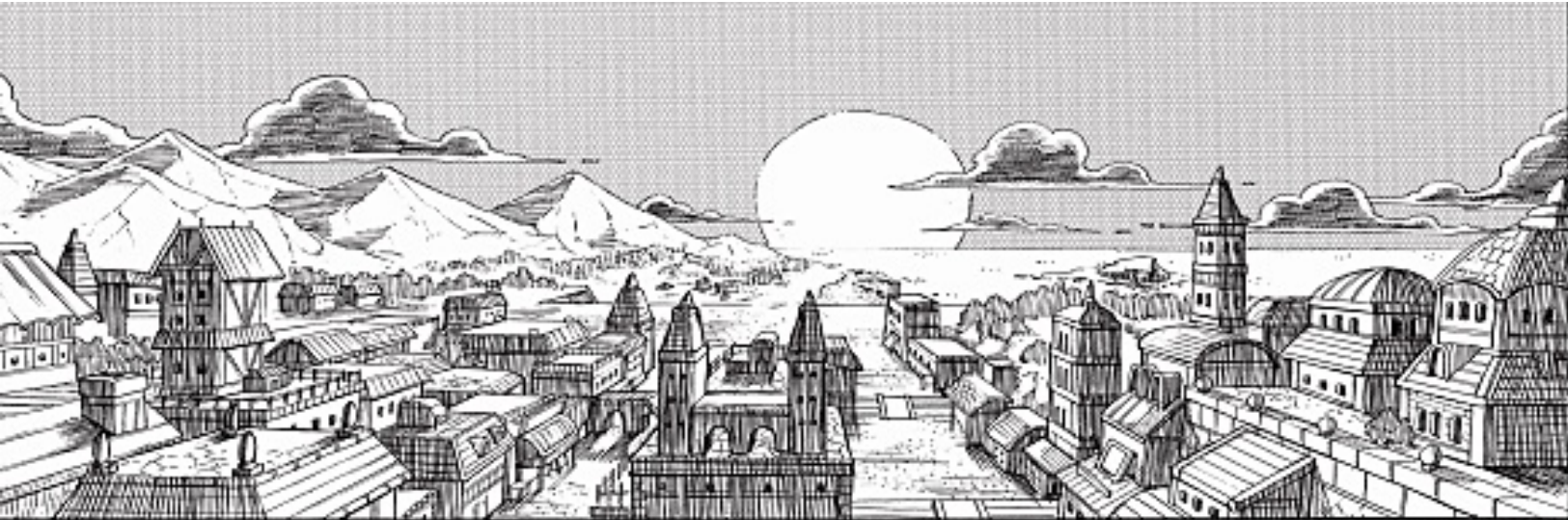
You're
unhinged,
huh?

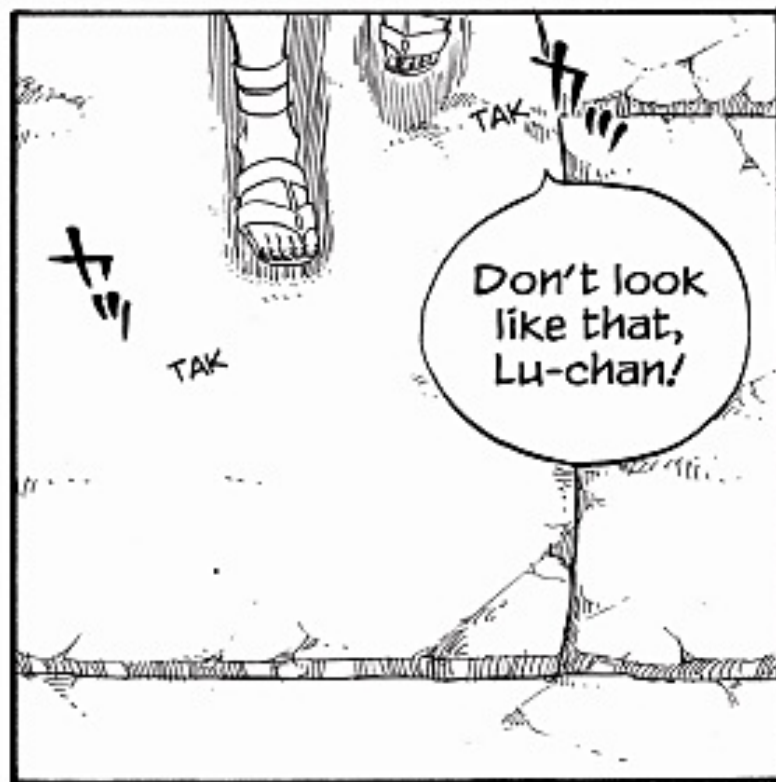
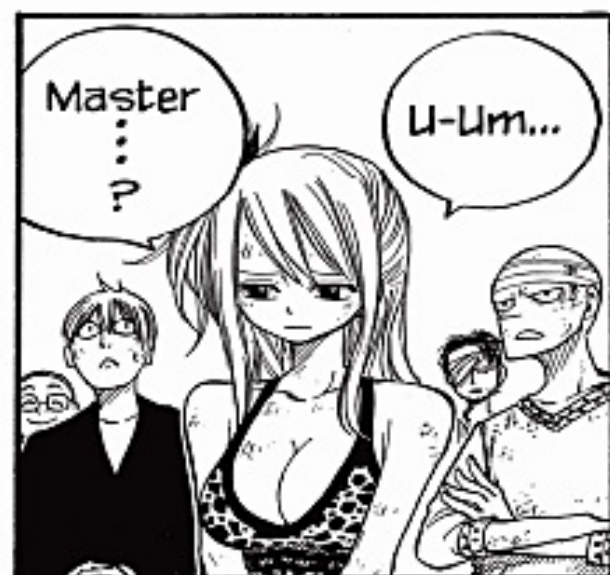


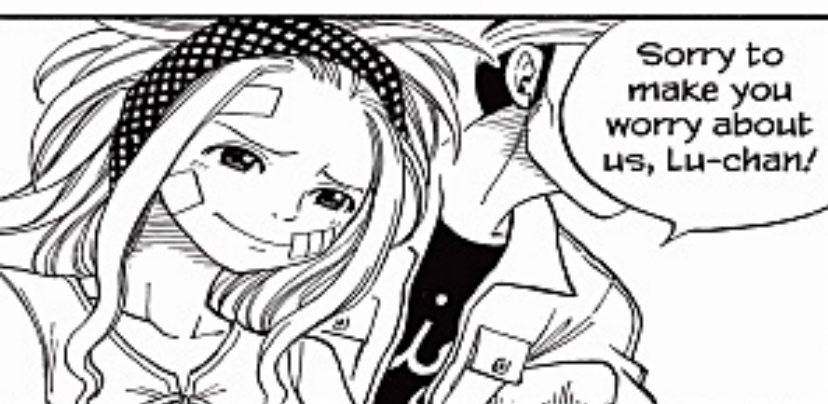
That does
it!! I'm
not going
to be nice
to you
now!!!

It was you
guys who
messed up
our guild,
right?!!

Just who's
unhinged
here?!! Look
what you did
to my guild!!!











So lift
your
head up.

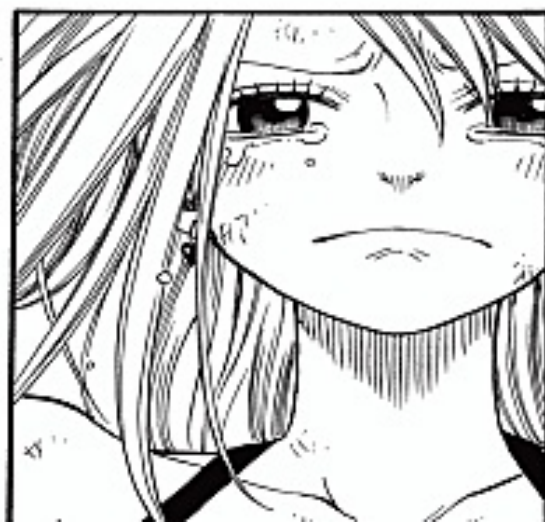


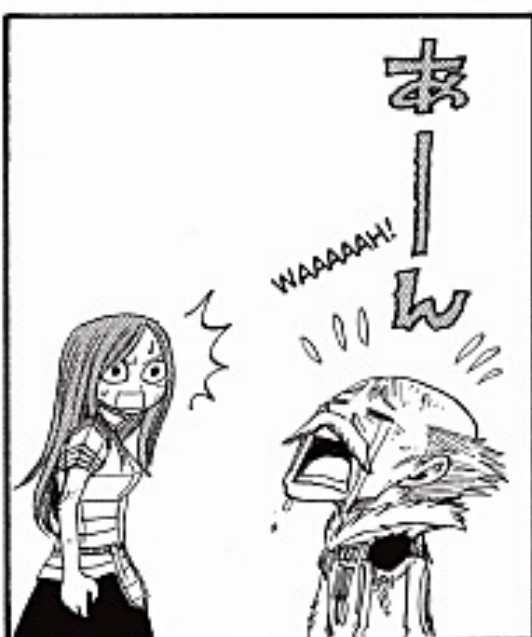
You
should
already
know how
everybody
feels.

There's
no need
for you
to feel
guilt.

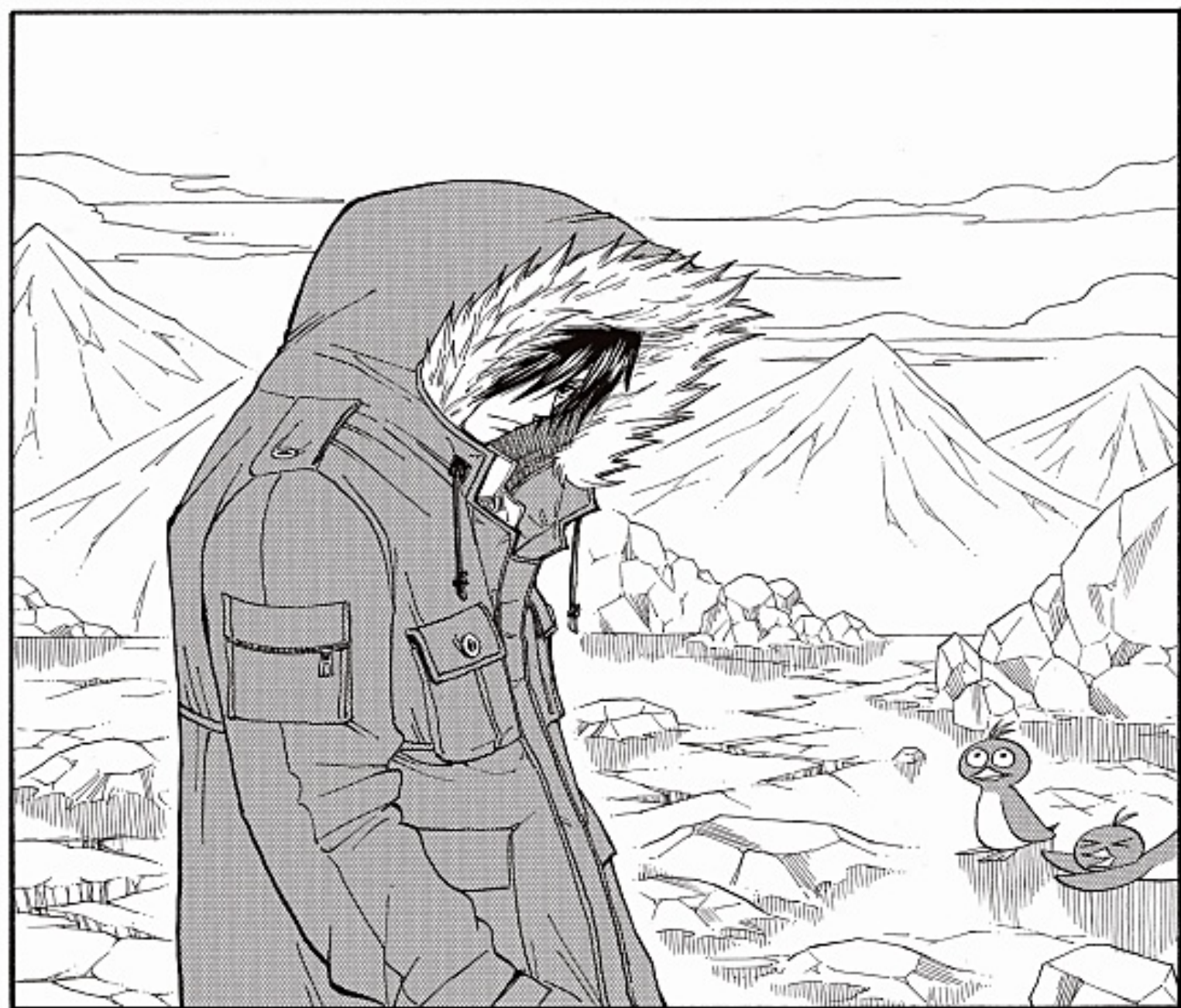


You are a
member of
Fairy Tail
after all.





FAIRY JAIL

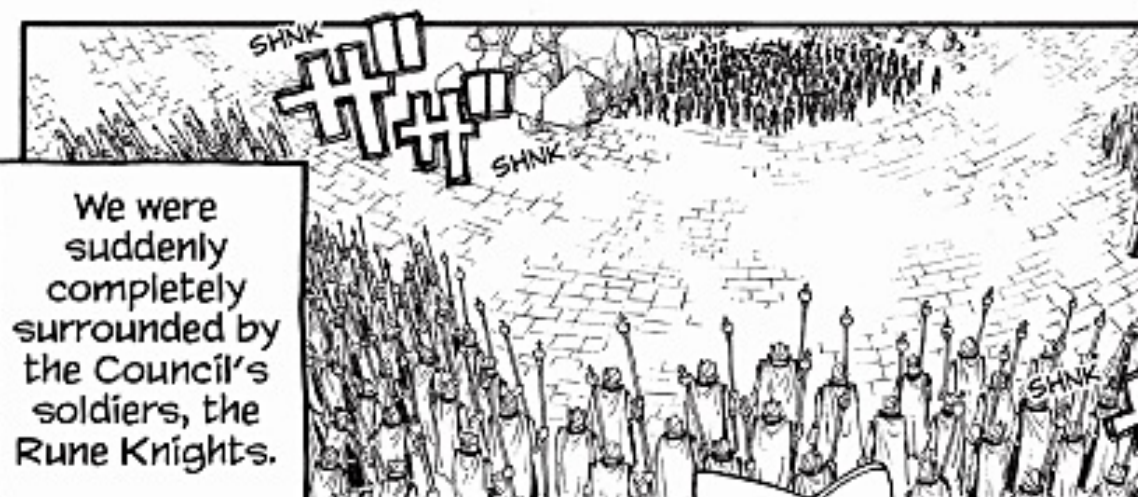


Chapter 67: My Decision

It had
been a
week
since the
battle
with
Phantom.

And we'd
finally
found a
bit of calm
to start
heading
forward...

KANG トン
TENK テン
カン
DONK

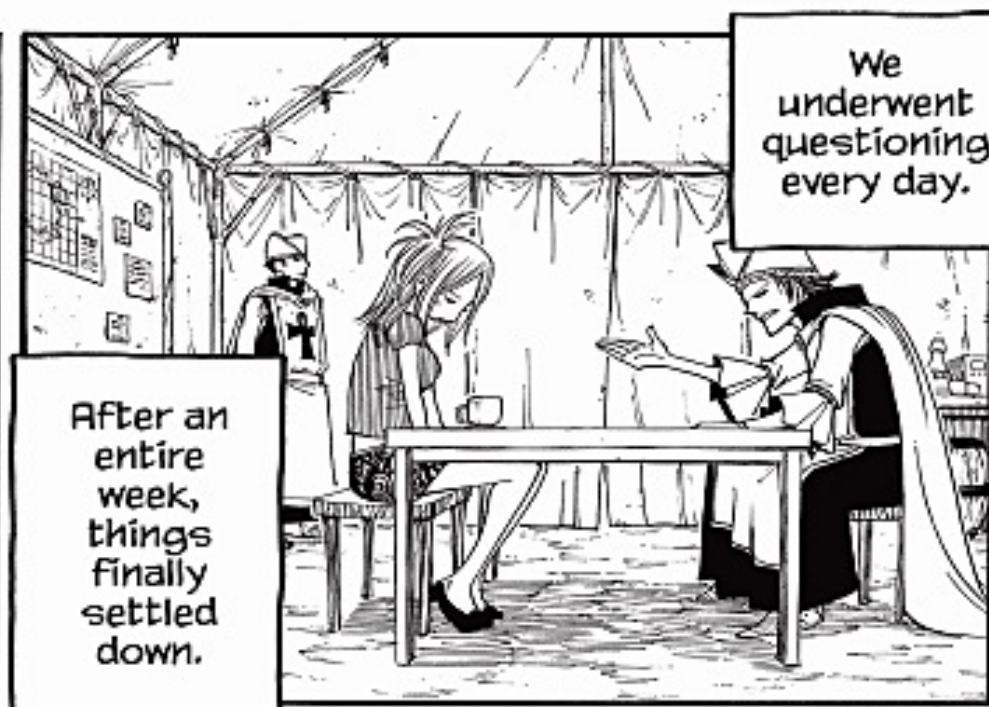
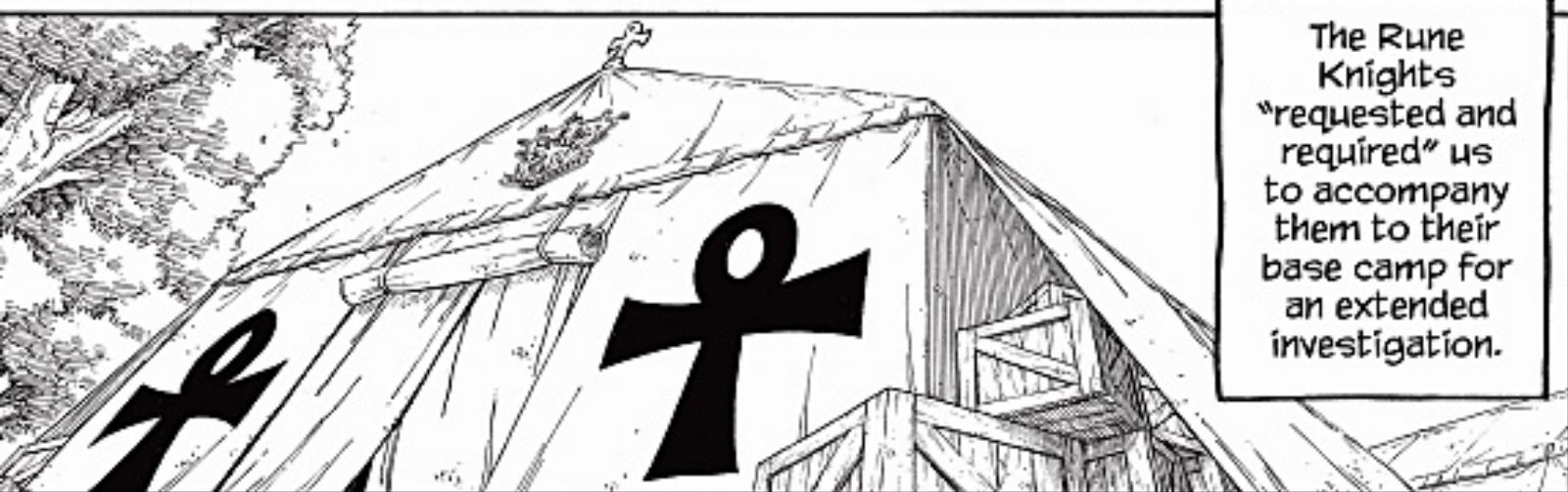


We were
suddenly
completely
surrounded by
the Council's
soldiers, the
Rune Knights.

...but
just after
that,
something
terrible
happened.

We are the
Rune Knights,
enforcement
and detainment
division, under
orders from
the Magic
Council!!!

**Nobody
move
!!!**



All the evidence and witness reports indicate Phantom instigated the attack.

But you don't need to worry, Mama.

I doubt they can judge us too harshly.

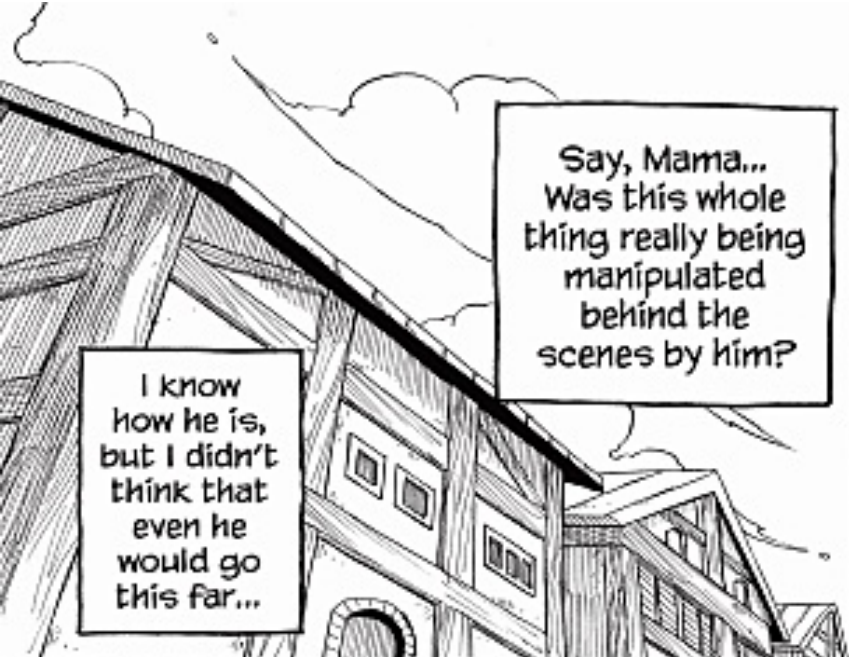
It's... just a bruise. It won't be there permanently, right?

CHIK

Oww

CHEEP

CHEEP



I know how he is, but I didn't think that even he would go this far...

Say, Mama... Was this whole thing really being manipulated behind the scenes by him?



Phantom, huh...?



I'm working! Leave me be!

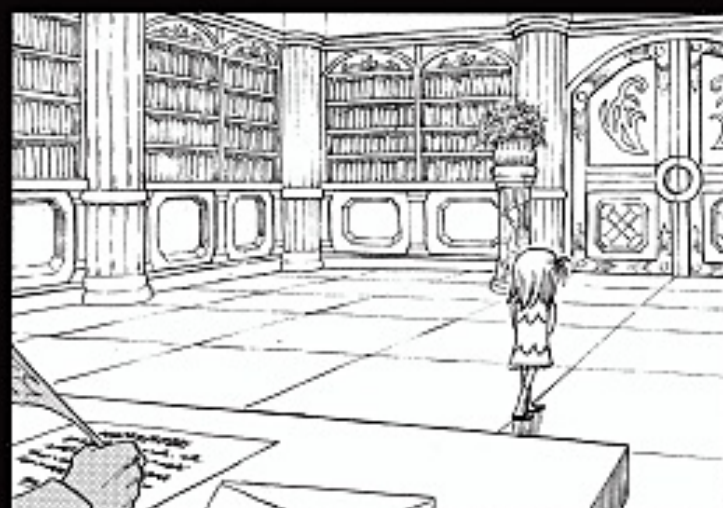
Um...



Hey, Papa! I made you a rice ball!

TAH

DAH



*Can't you
understand
when I
tell you
you're in
the way,
Lucy?!!!*

Now,
go
!!!!



Cooking is the
exclusive domain
of the chef!!!! If
you have so much
free time, then
use it to study
politics!!!!



He would
do it,
wouldn't
he?

Without
a second
thought.





He never even once showed any interest in me.

GWIK

But why now? Why does he want me back all of a sudden?

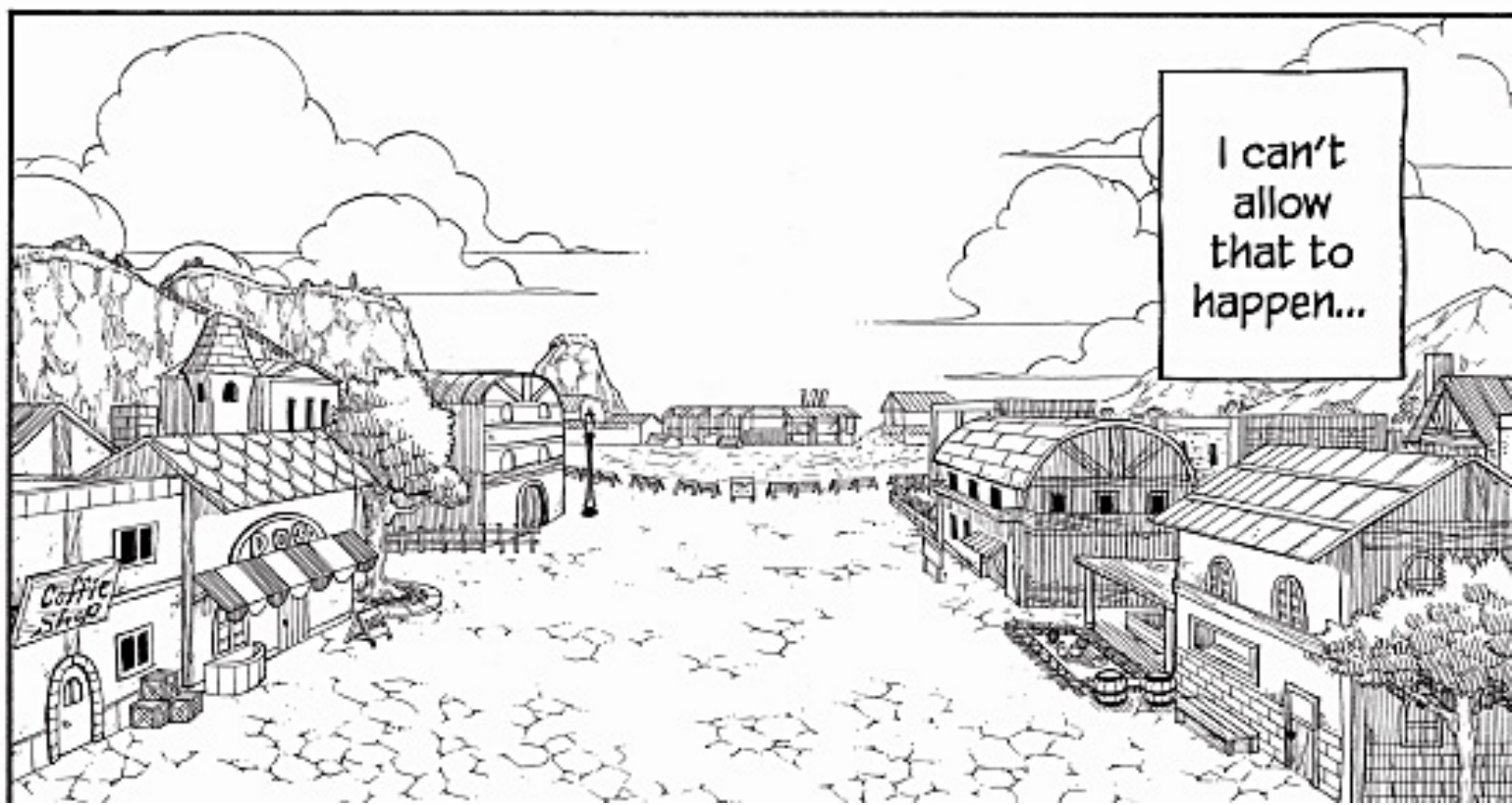


The very same thing, using the power of his money...

Mama... He'd do it again, wouldn't he?



It caused a lot of problems for Fairy Tail.

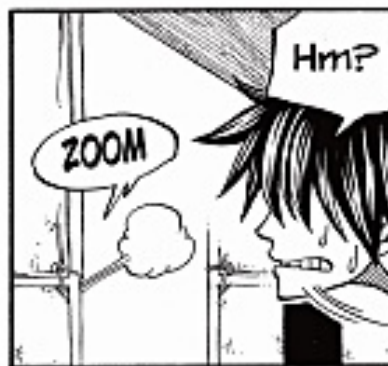


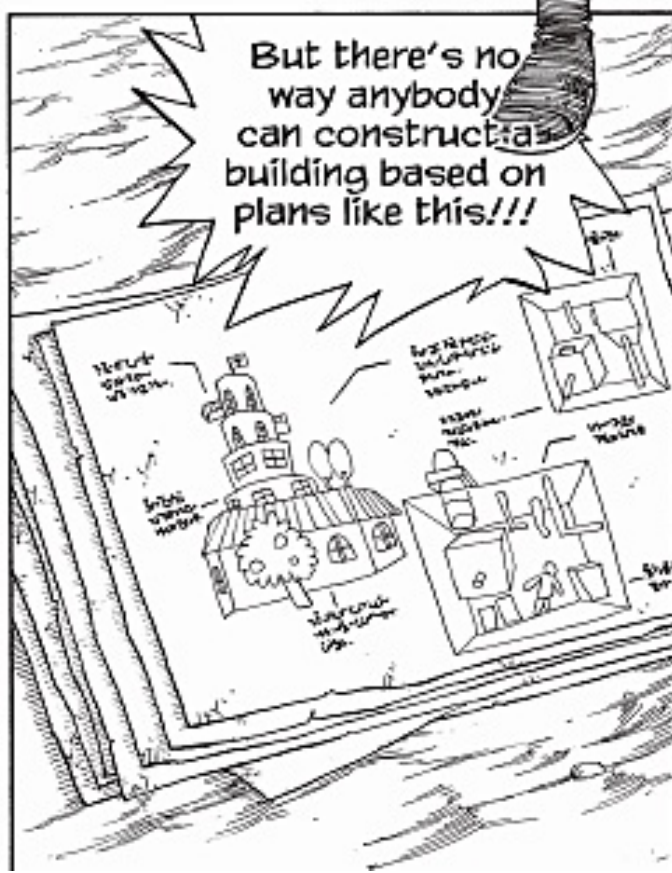
I can't allow that to happen...



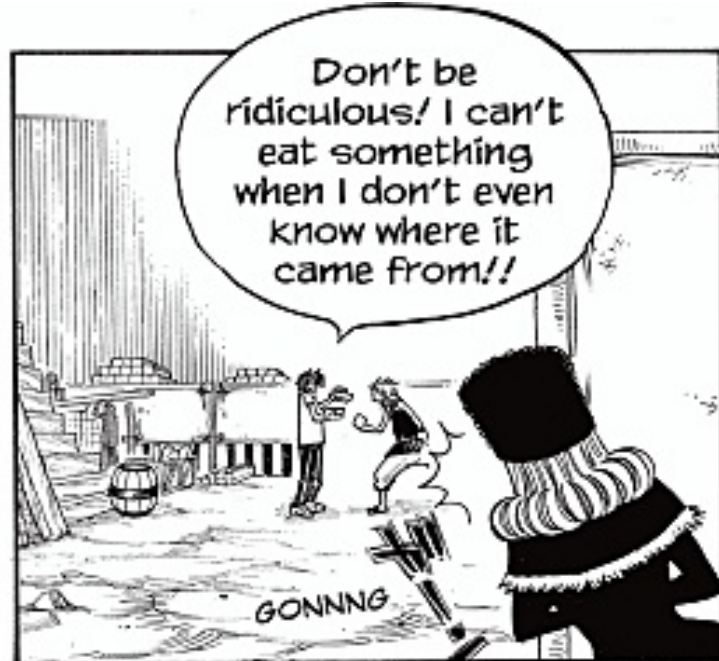


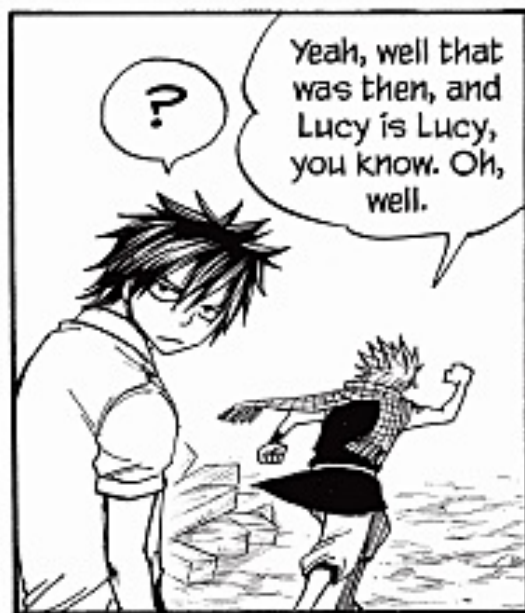
GWAHHH!!



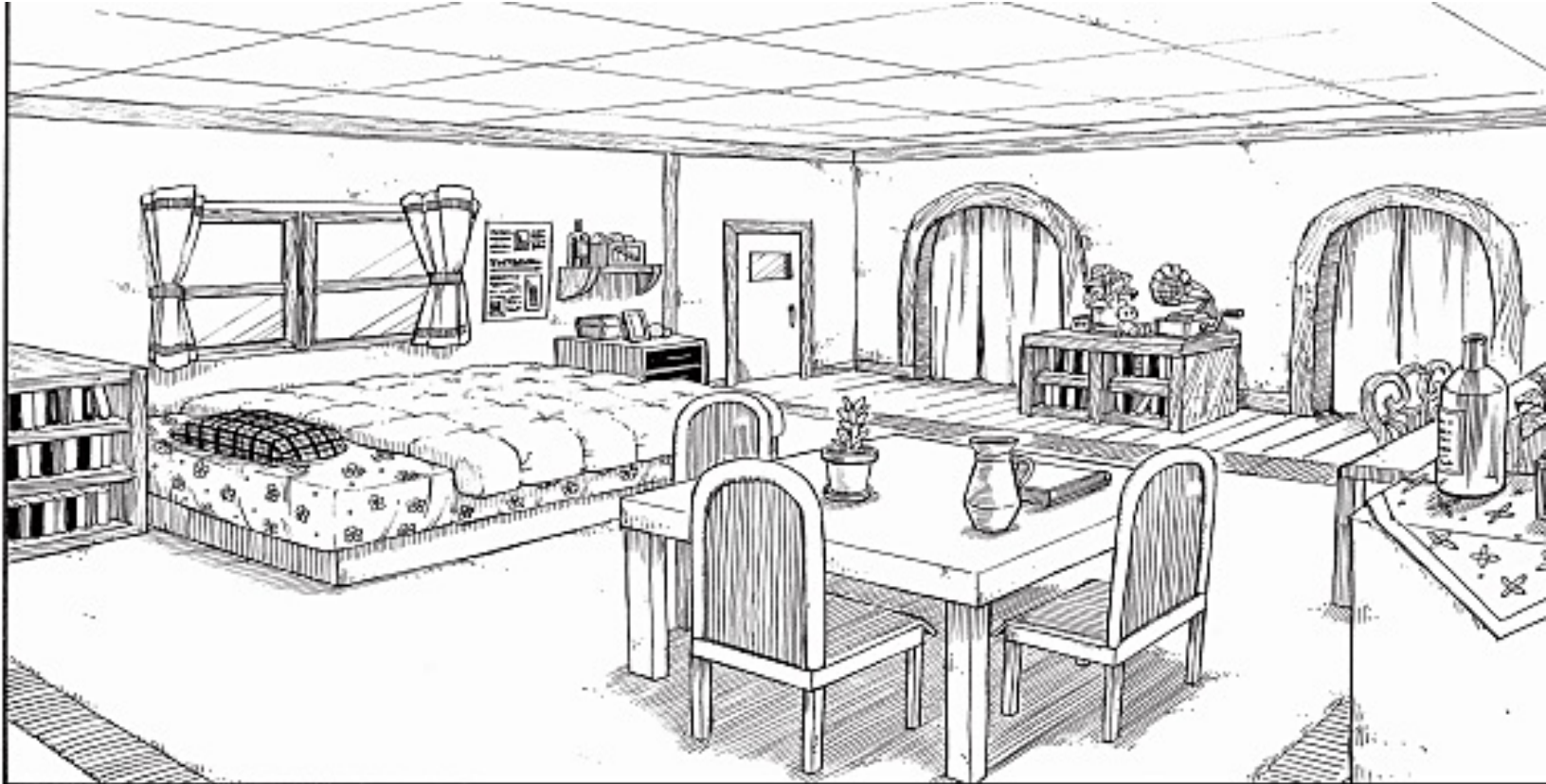


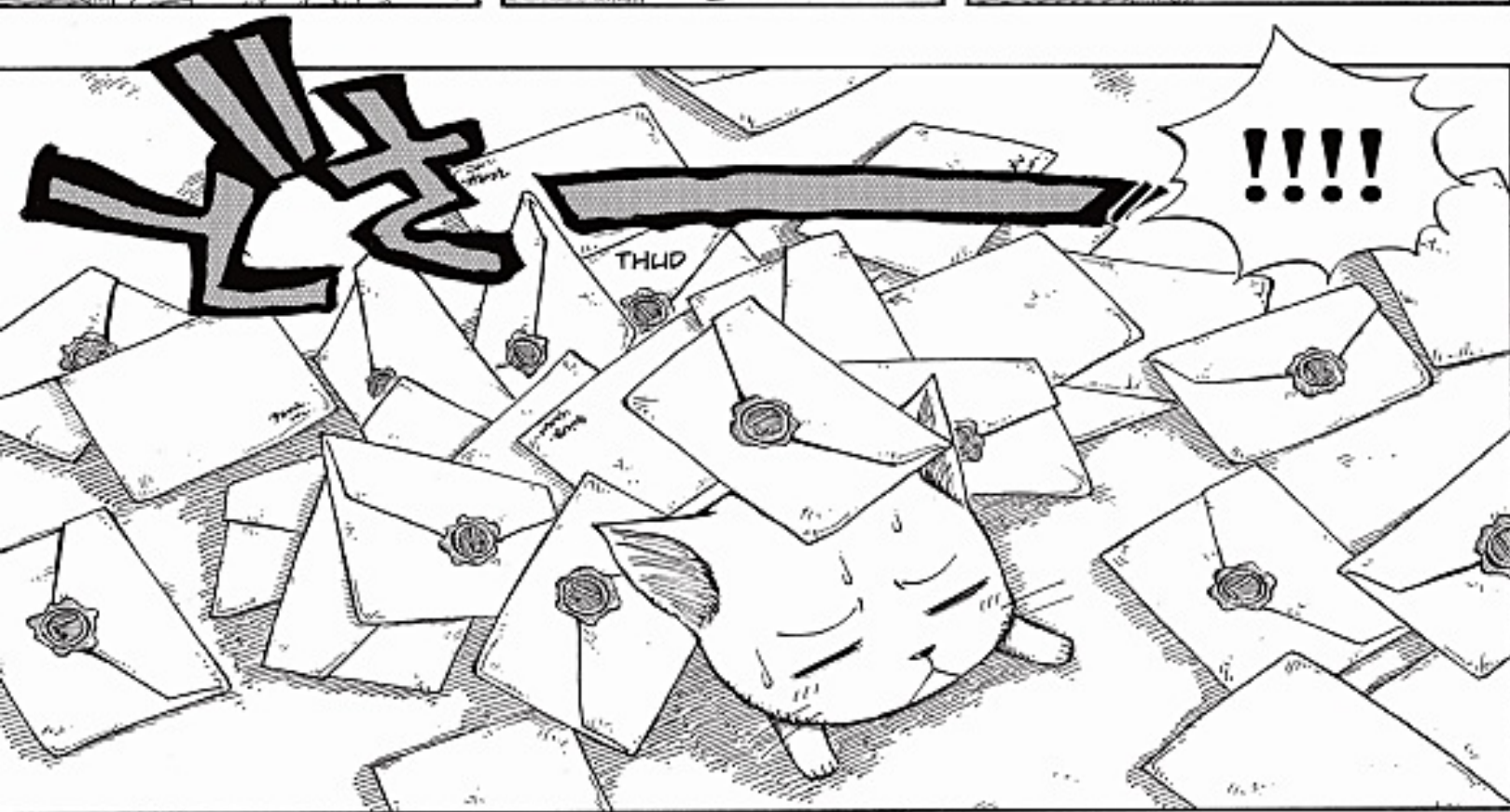


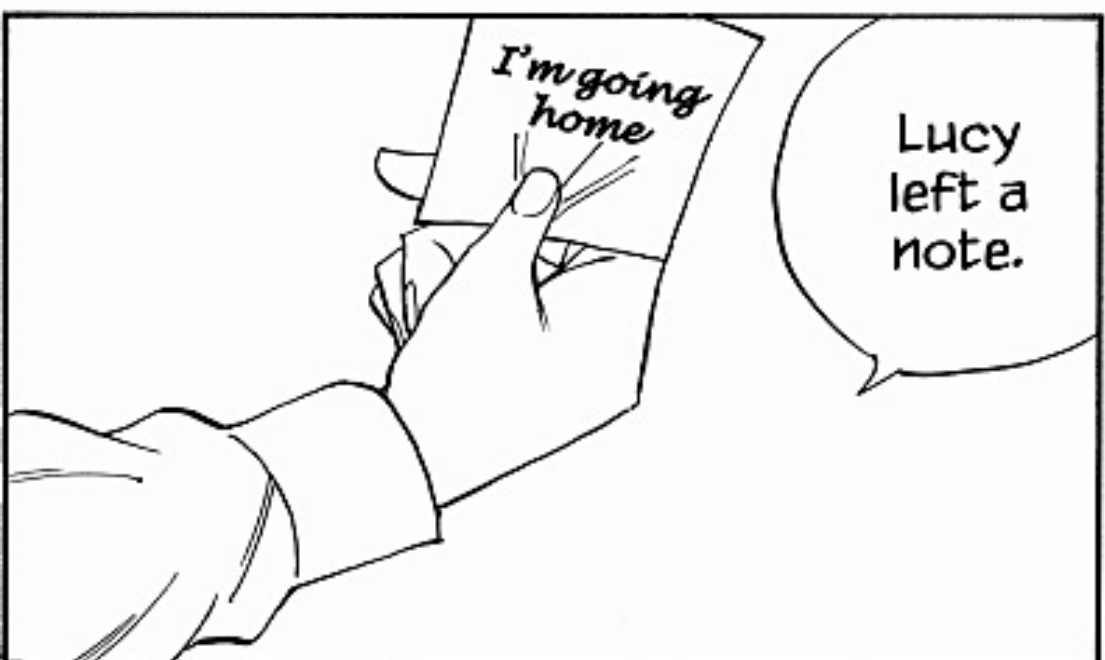
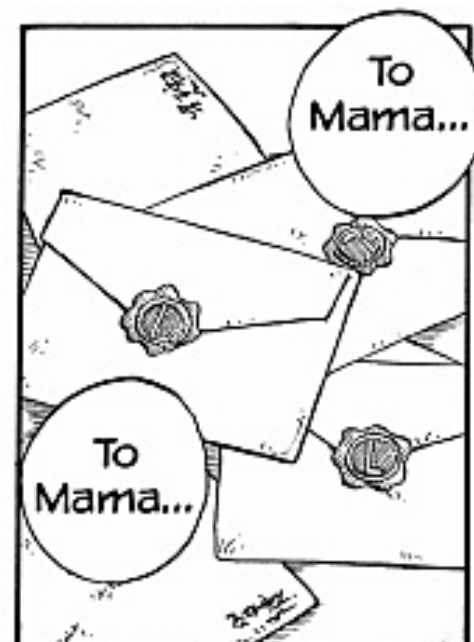


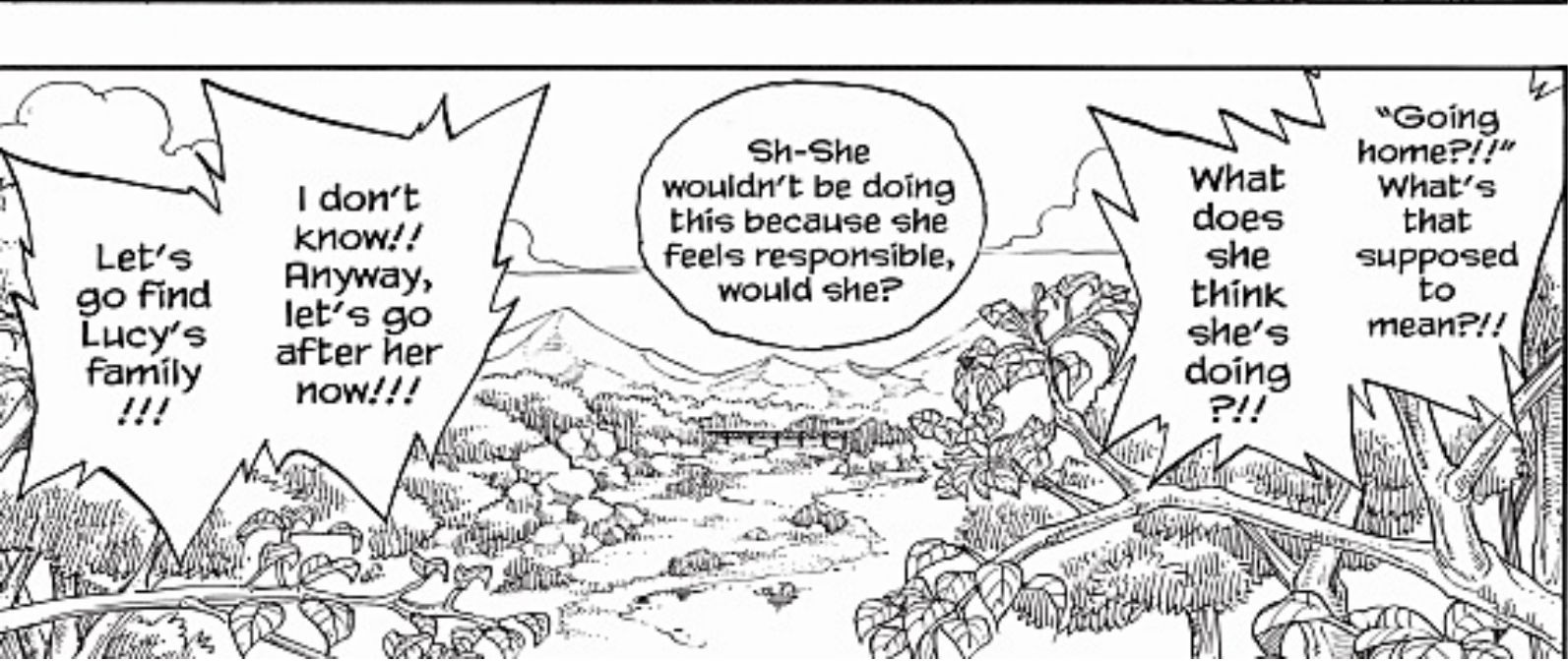


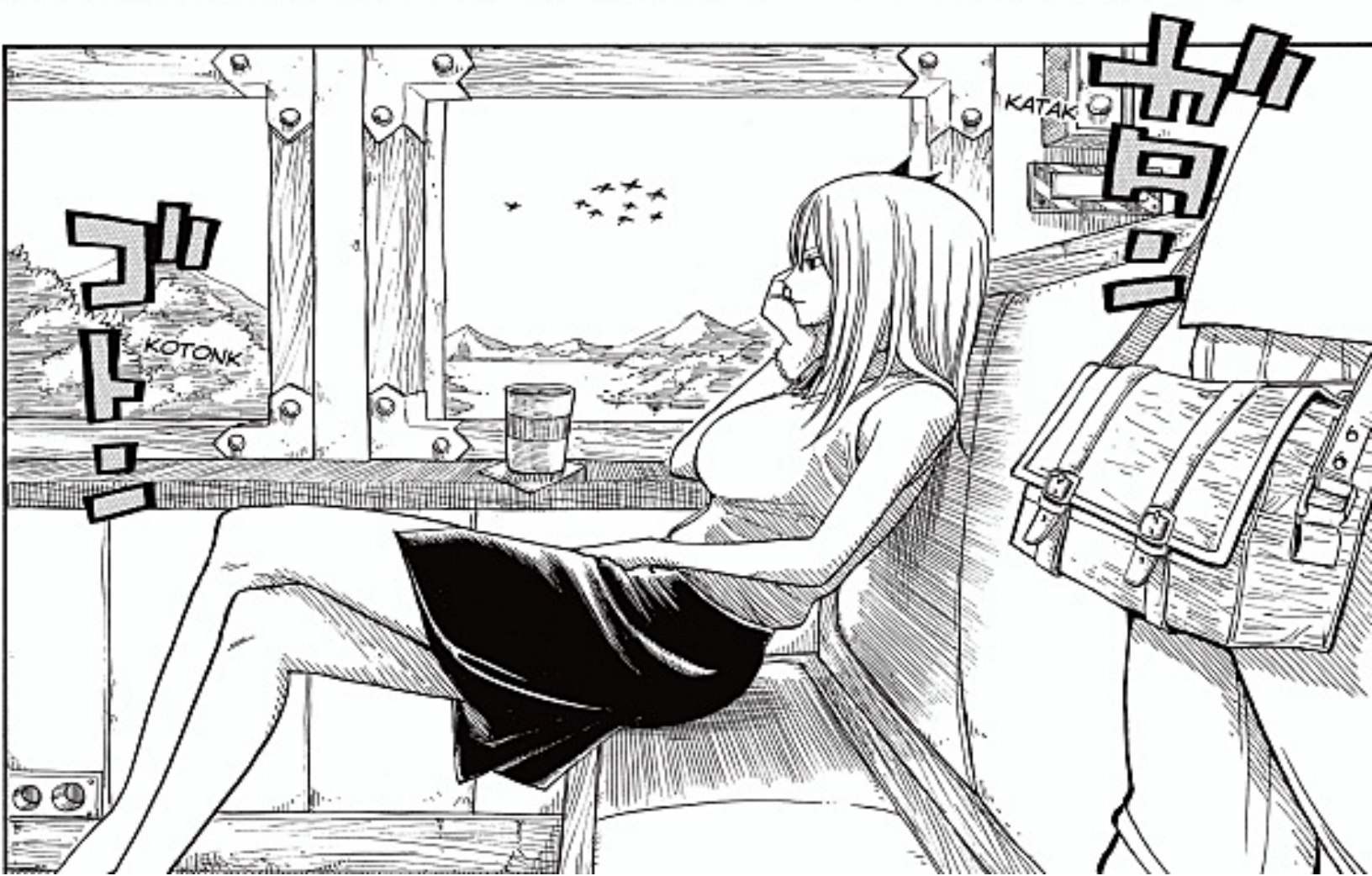
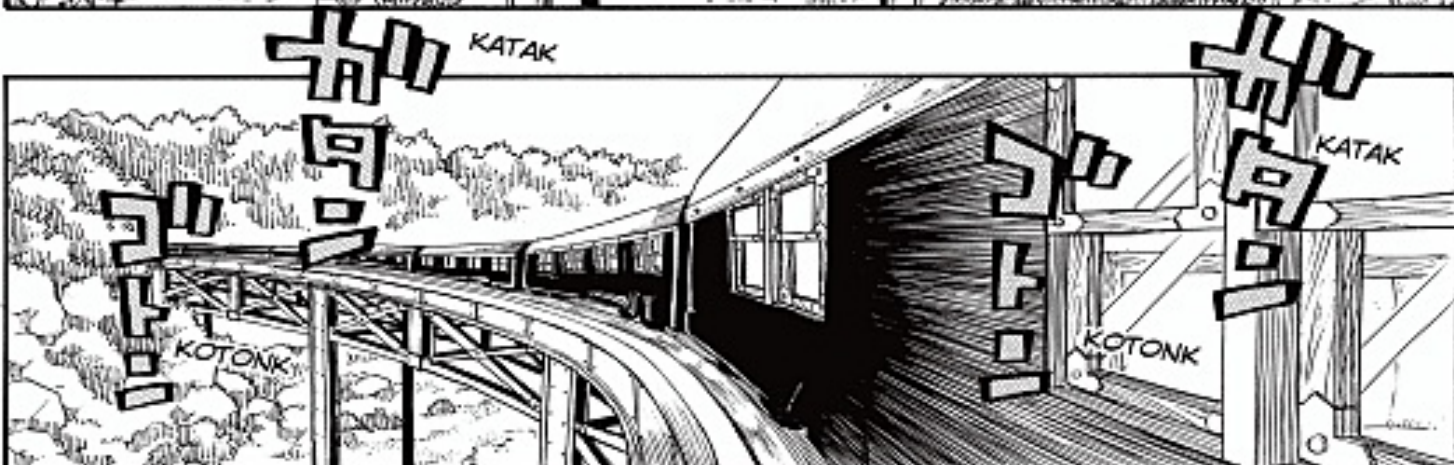
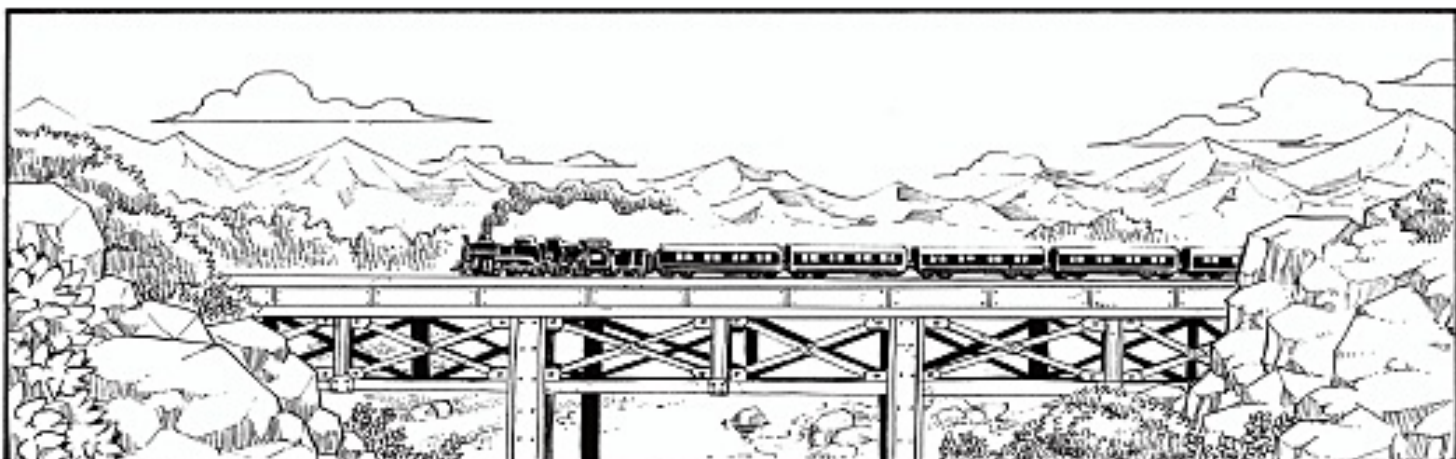




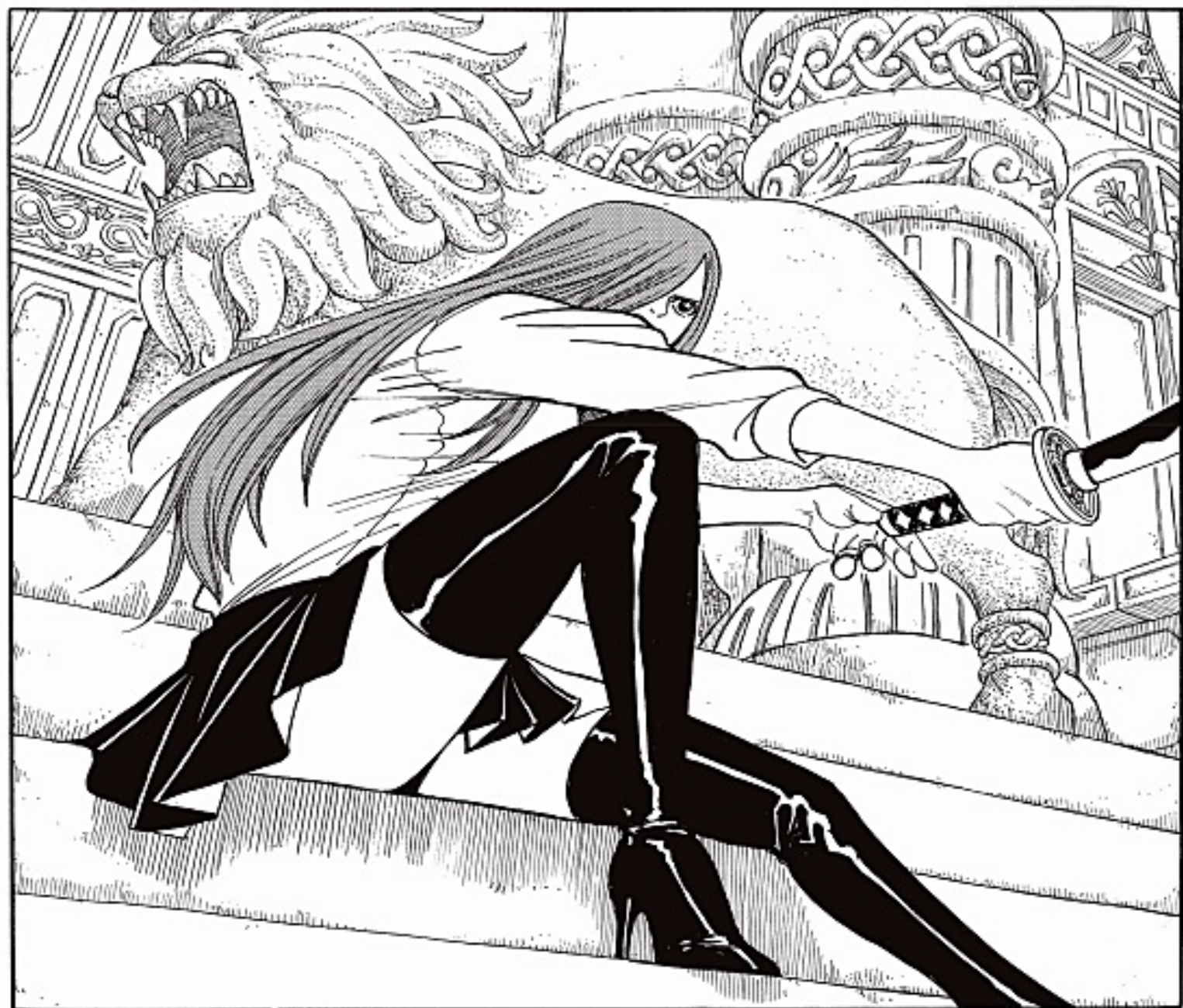






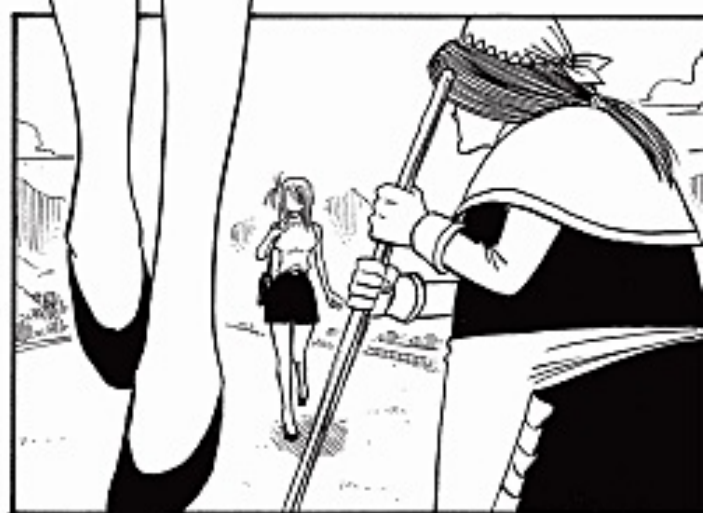


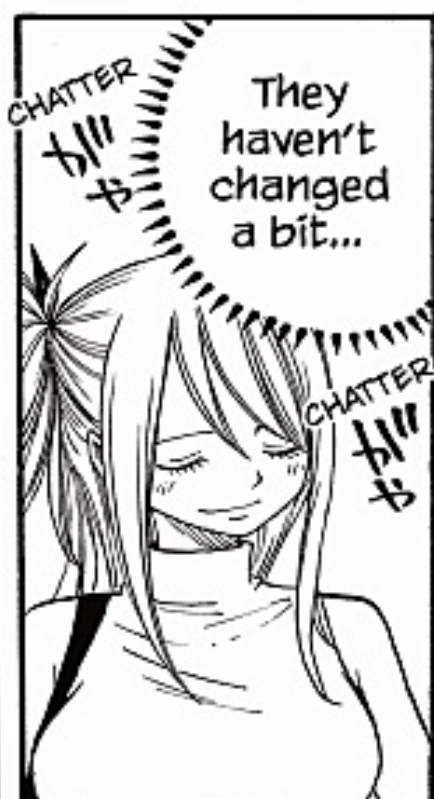
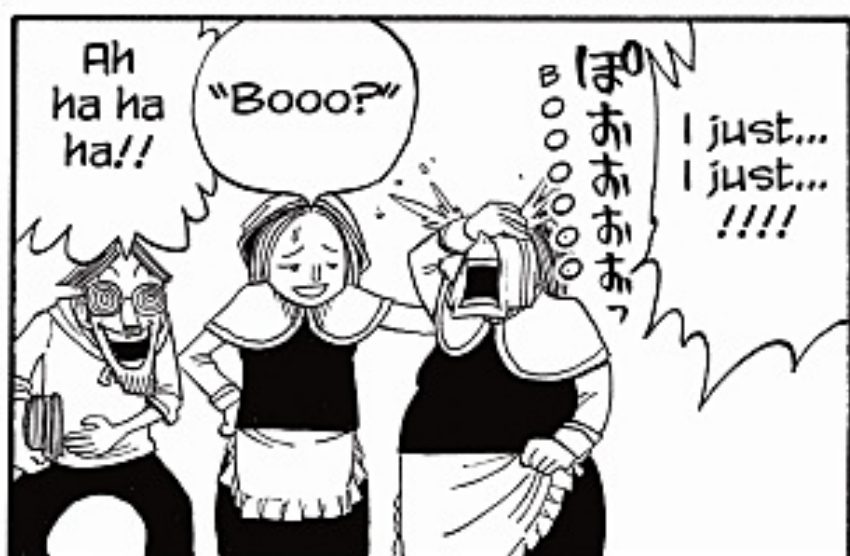
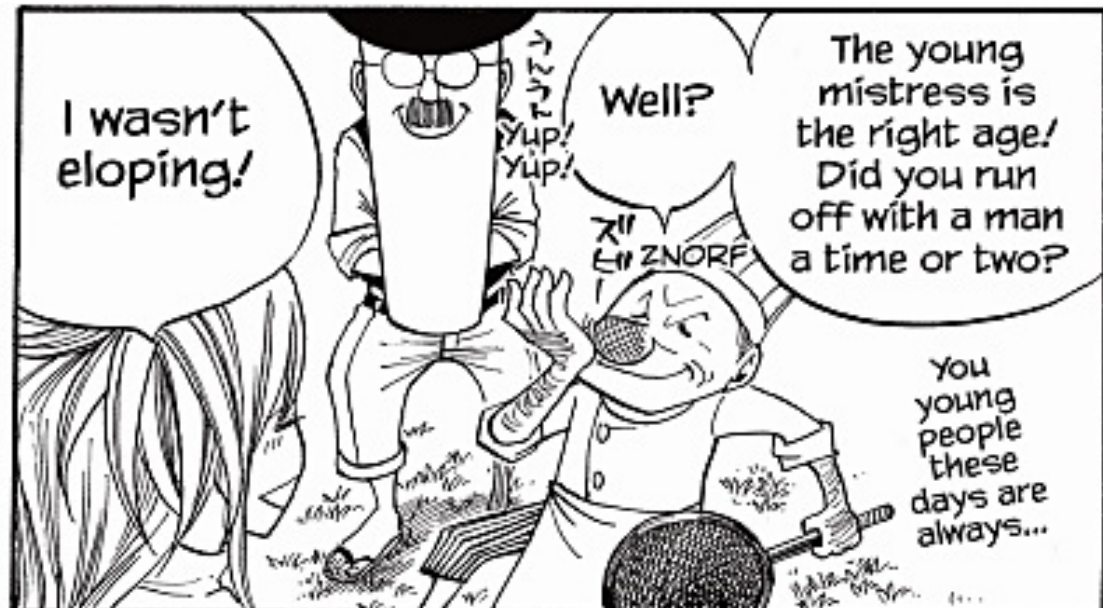
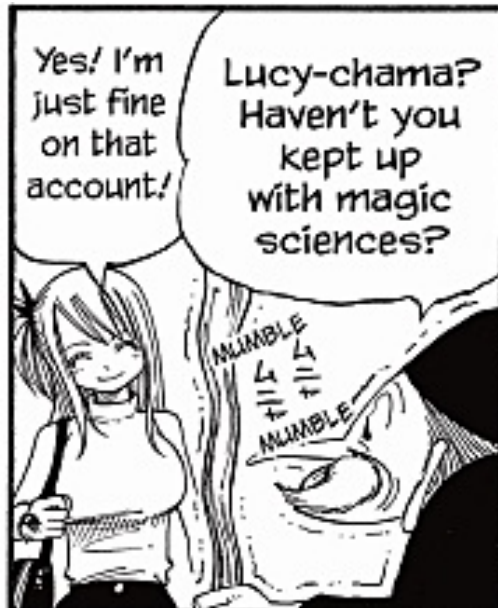
FAIRY TAIL

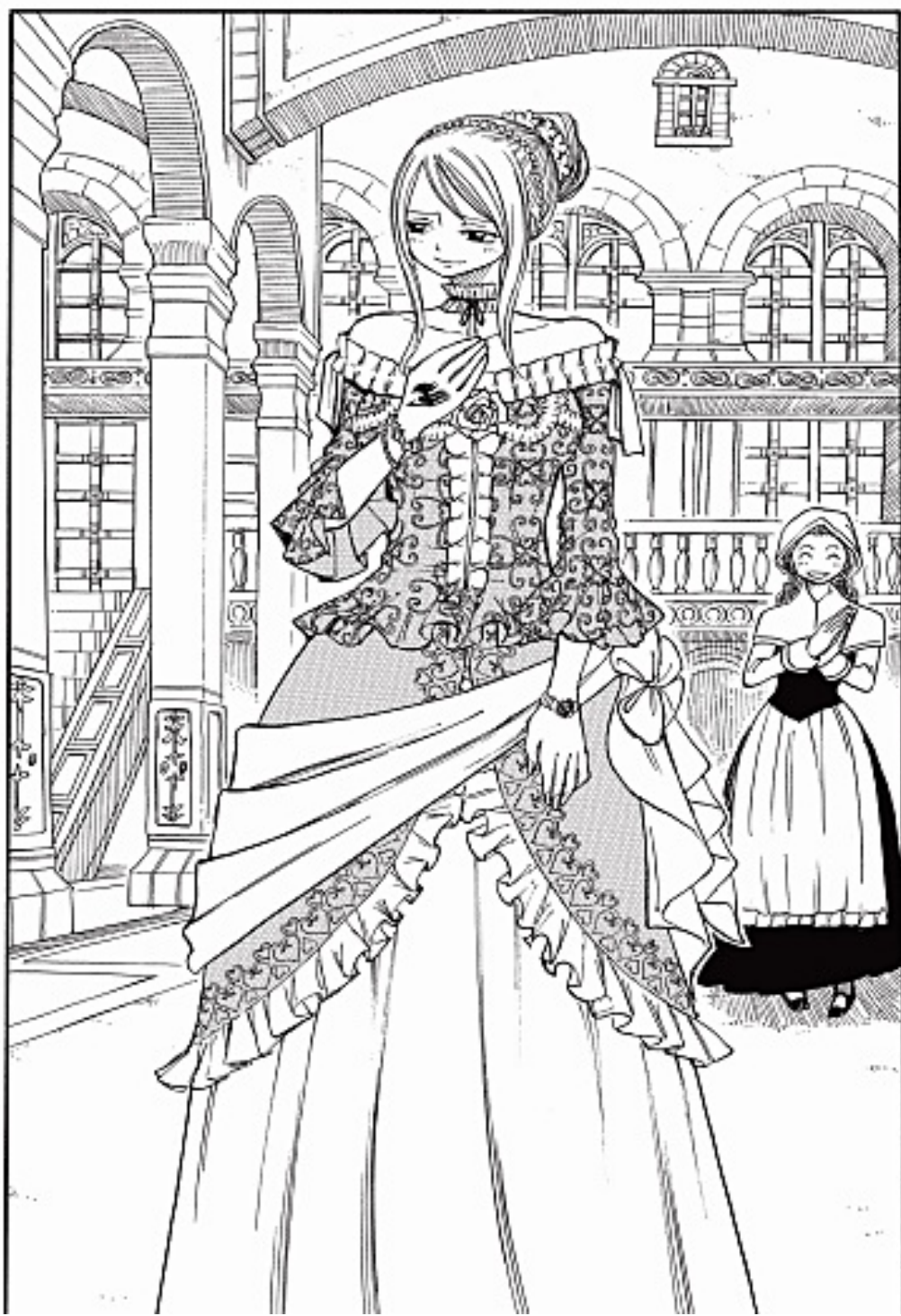
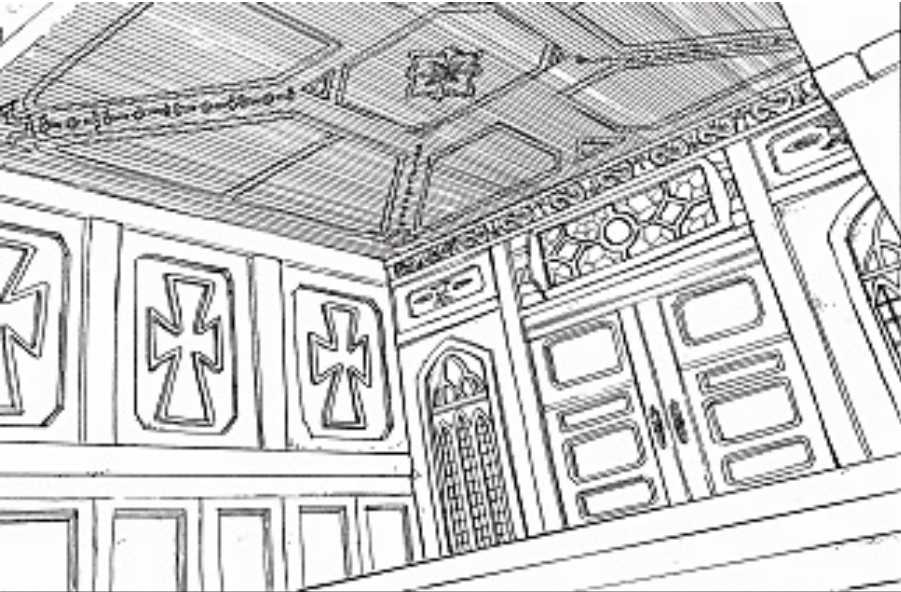


Chapter 68: Goodbye

The
Heartfilia
Estate





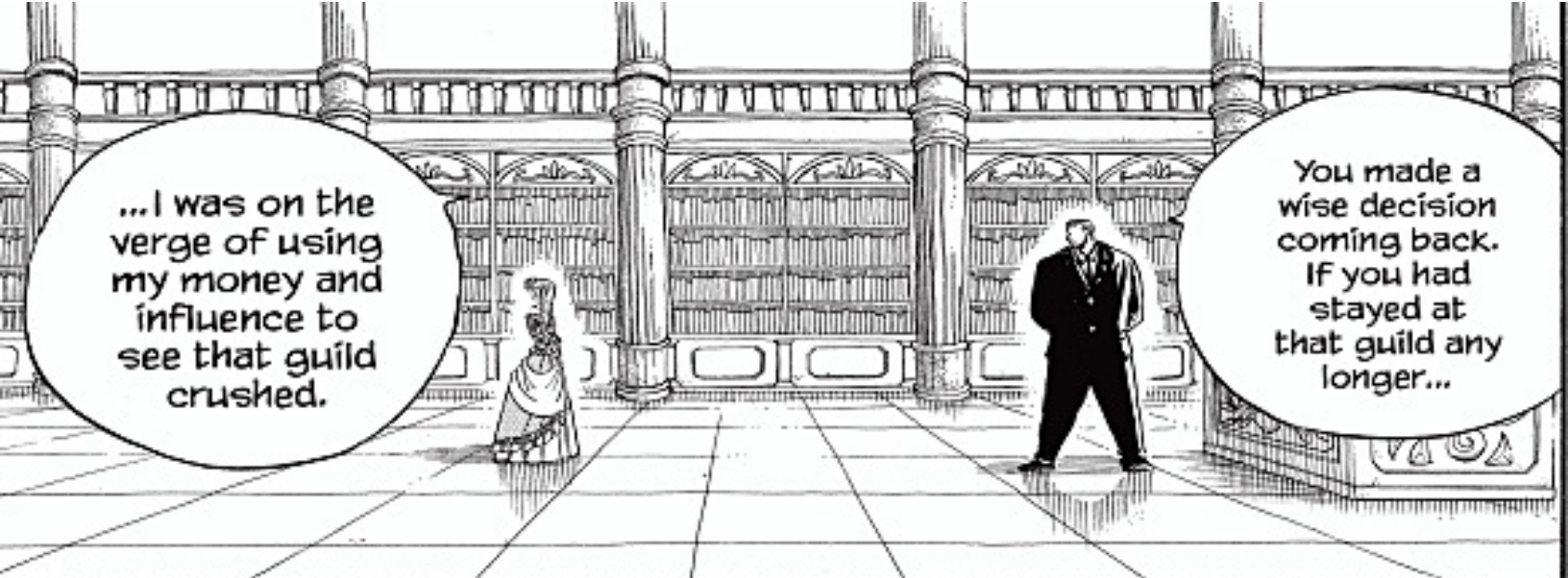




I deeply
regret my
actions
in that
regard.



I humbly
apologize for
leaving the
house without
making my
intentions
known.



...I was on the verge of using my money and influence to see that guild crushed.

You made a wise decision coming back. If you had stayed at that guild any longer...



I assume you will take this as a lesson about how your willful actions can bring trouble to those around you.

So you've finally grown up, have you, Lucy?



There is only one reason I have brought you back here.

Your wedding arrangements have been made.



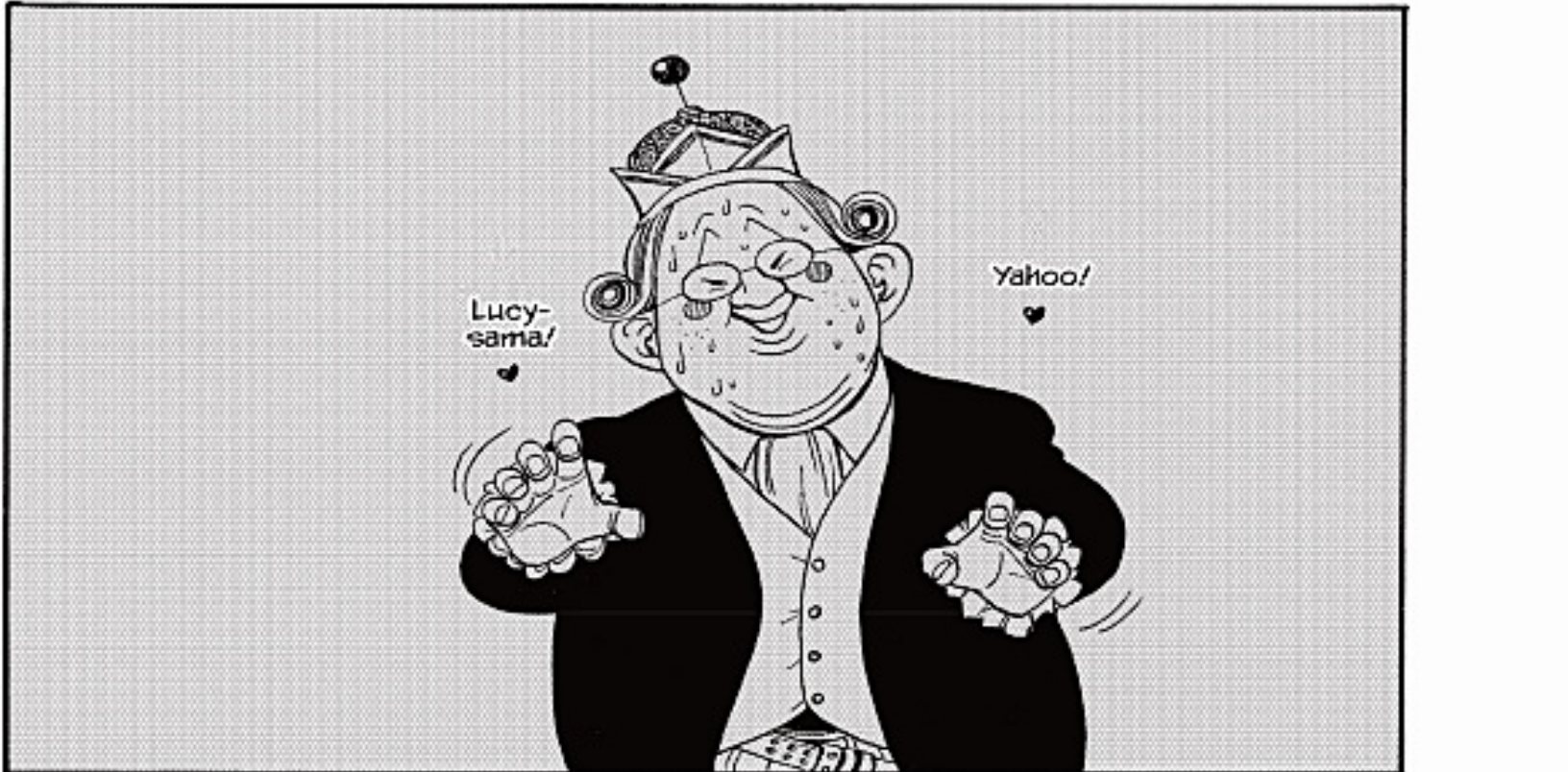
That makes you different from other people. You live in a different world.

You are the daughter of the Heartfilia family.



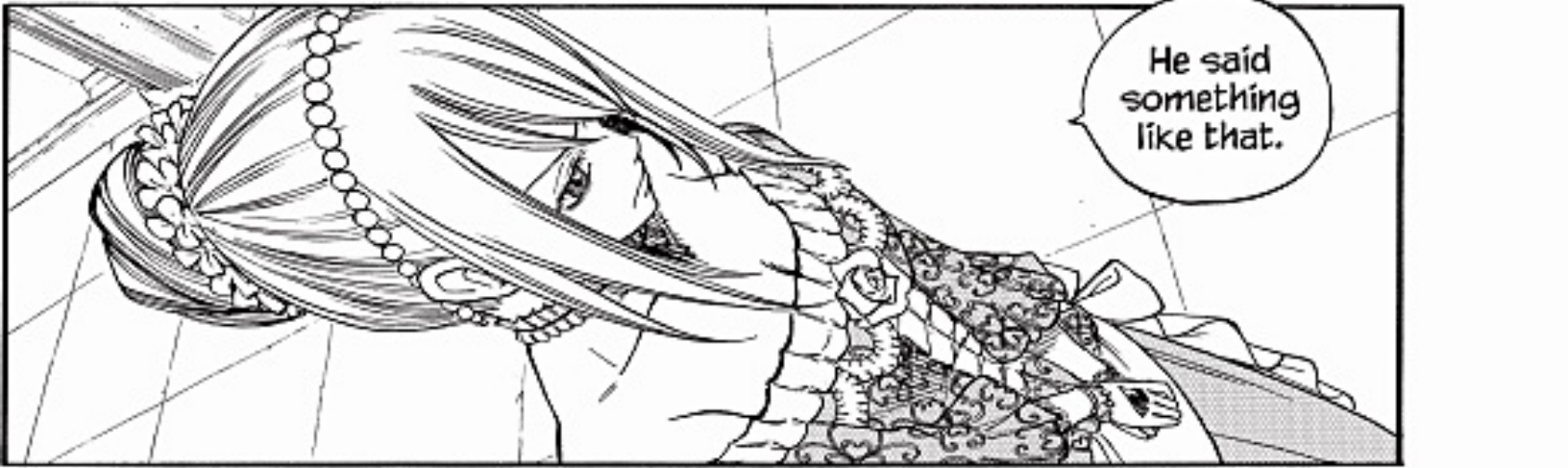
I hear he
said to you
that he's
had his eye
on you.

Duke
Sawarr, son
and heir to
the Junelle
family.

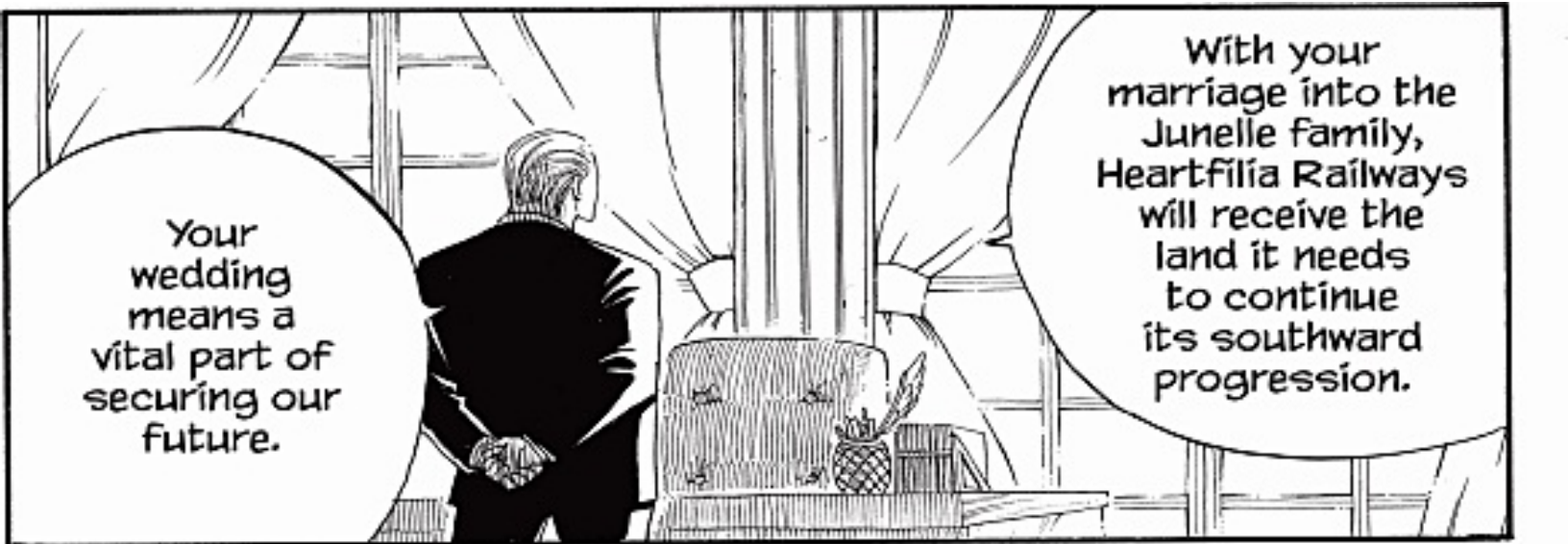


Lucy-
sama!

Yahoo!



He said
something
like that.



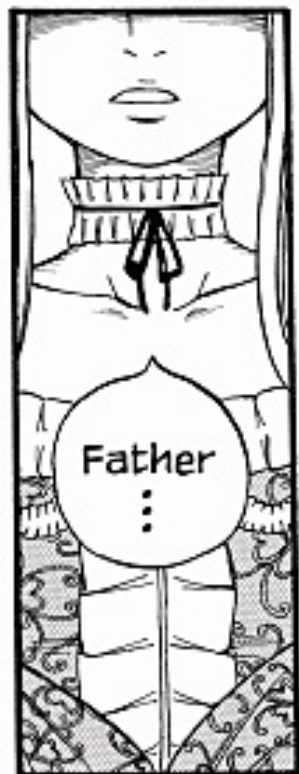
Your wedding means a vital part of securing our future.

With your marriage into the Junelle family, Heartfilia Railways will receive the land it needs to continue its southward progression.

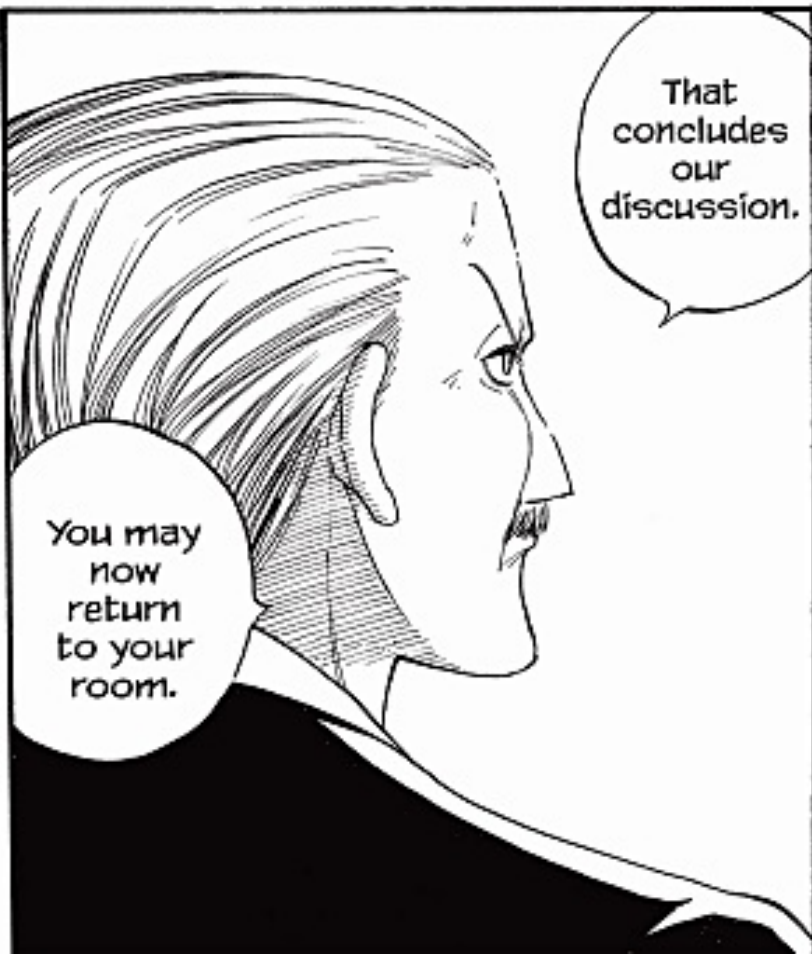


That son will inherit the Heartfilia estate.

Of course, you will be expected to bear a son.



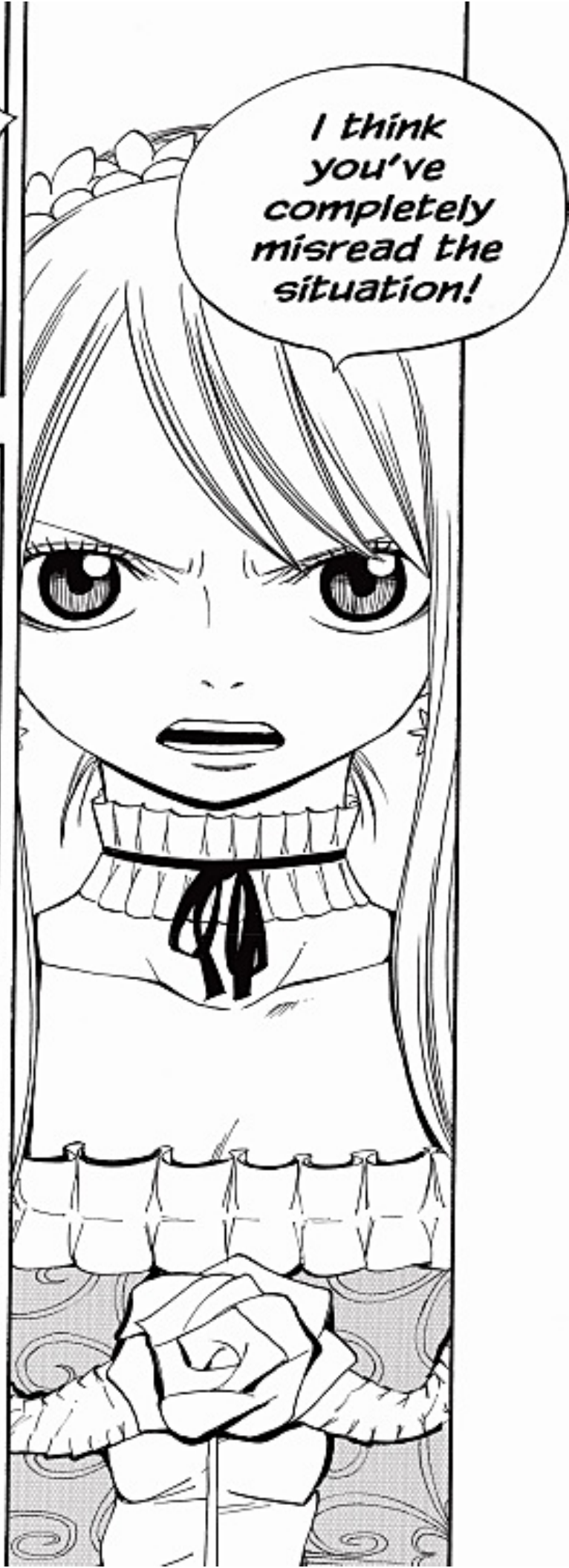
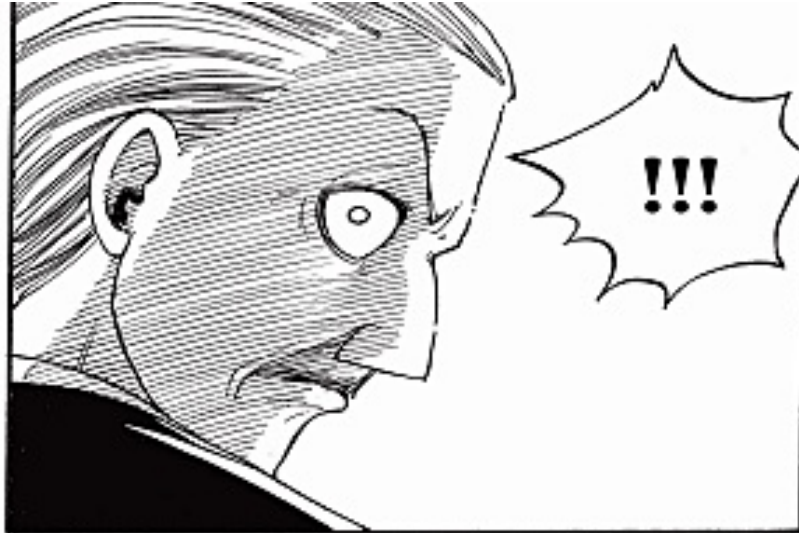
Father
...

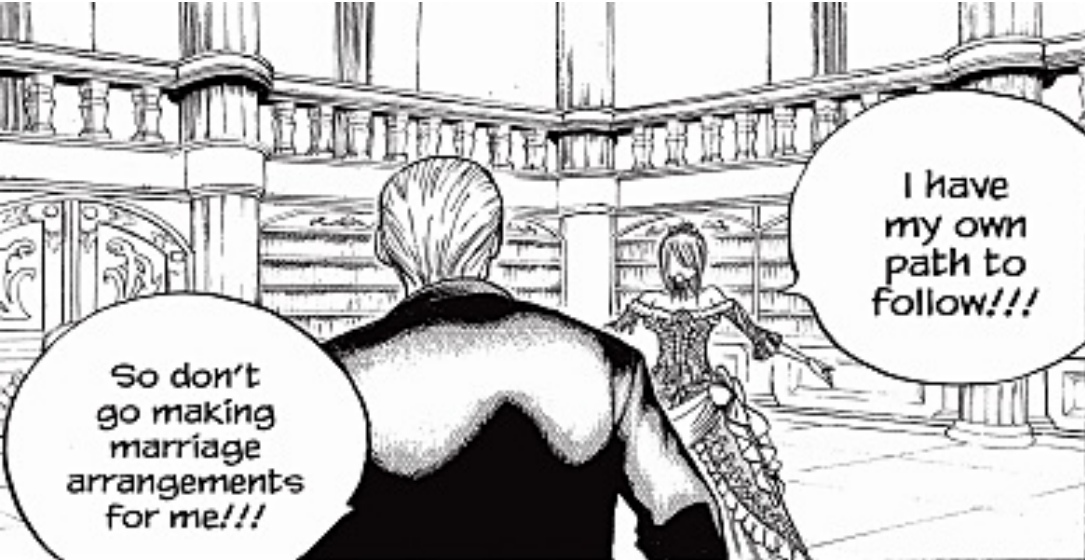


You may now return to your room.

That concludes our discussion.





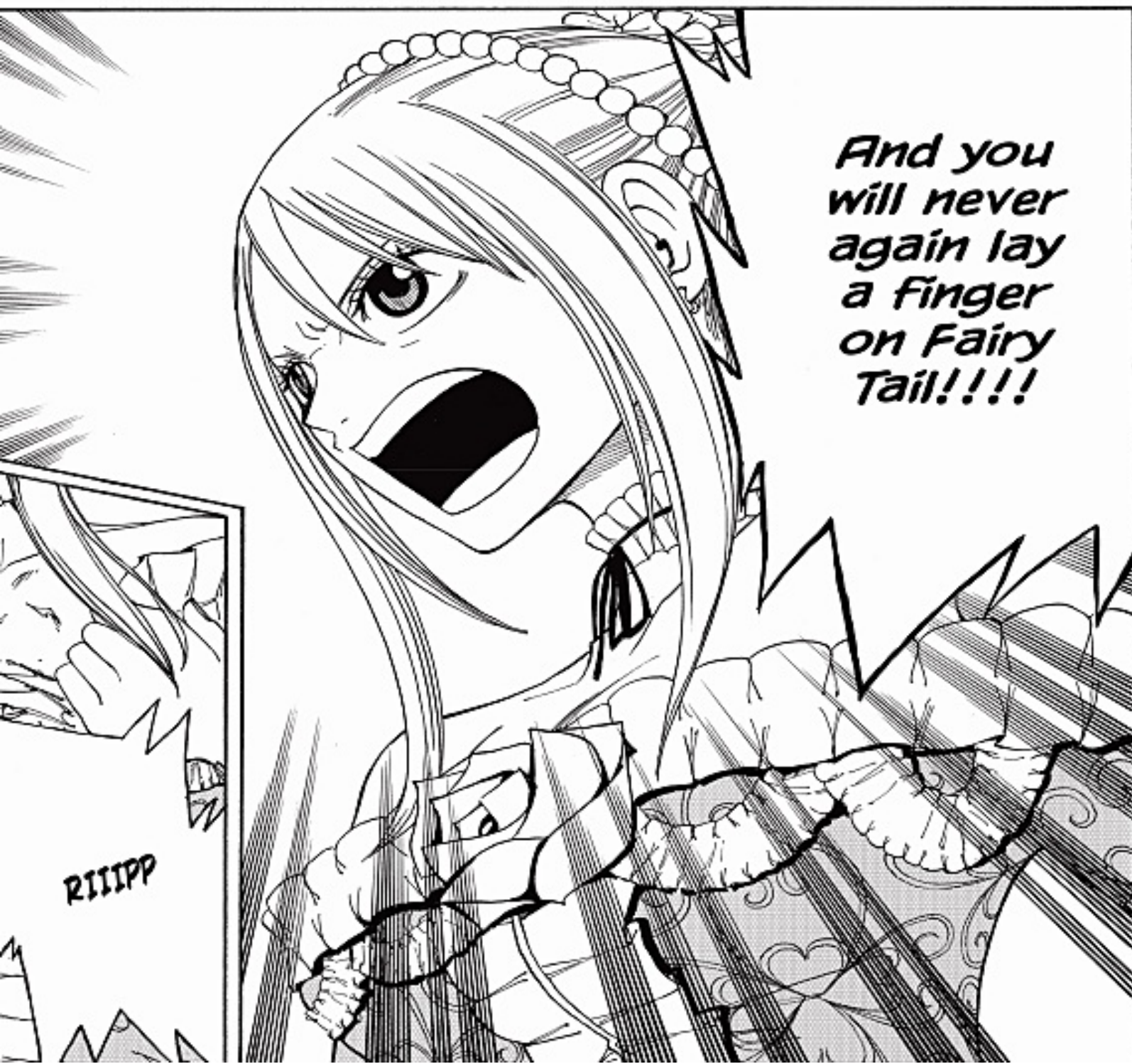


So don't
go making
marriage
arrangements
for me!!!

I have
my own
path to
follow!!!



Lucy
...



*And you
will never
again lay
a finger
on Fairy
Tail!!!!*

RIIIPP



If it hadn't
been for
what you did,
perhaps we
may have been
able to talk
things over.

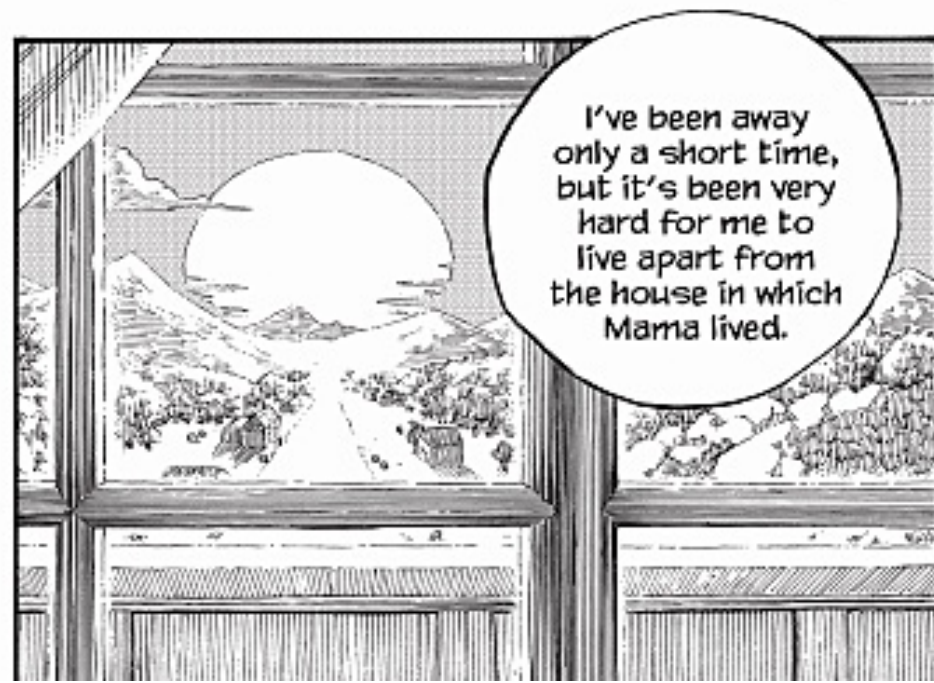
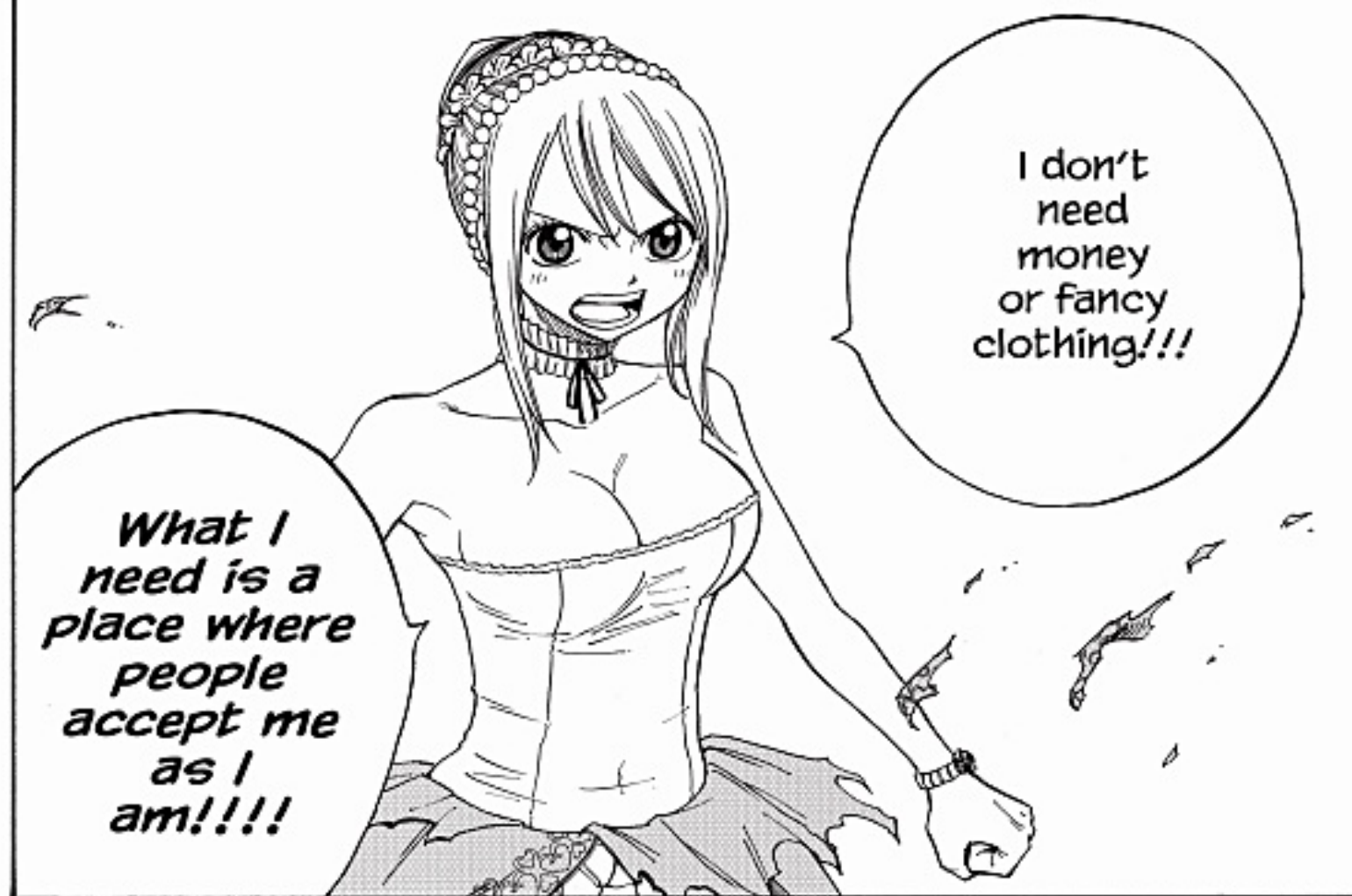
*But it's
too late
now!!!!
Now, you've
hurt my
friends!!!!*

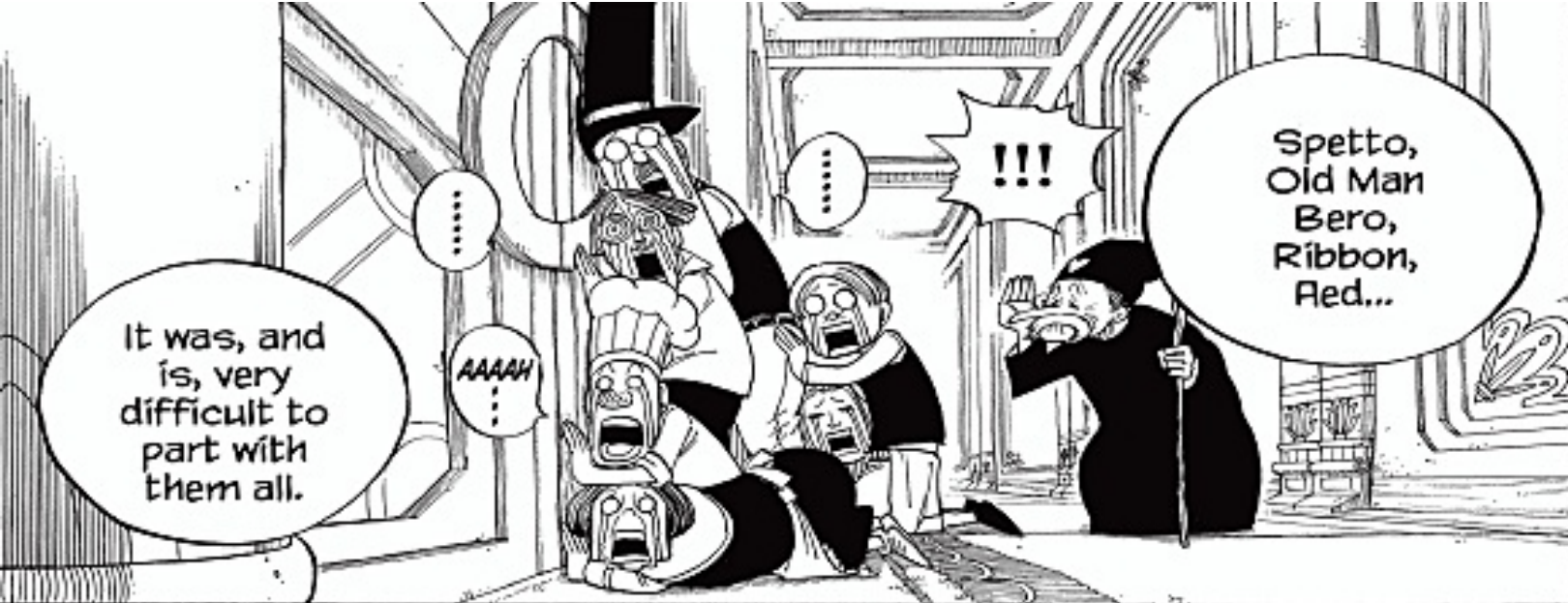


*...you will
make an
enemy of
me... and
the entire
guild!!!*



***Because
the next
time you
threaten
Fairy Tail...***



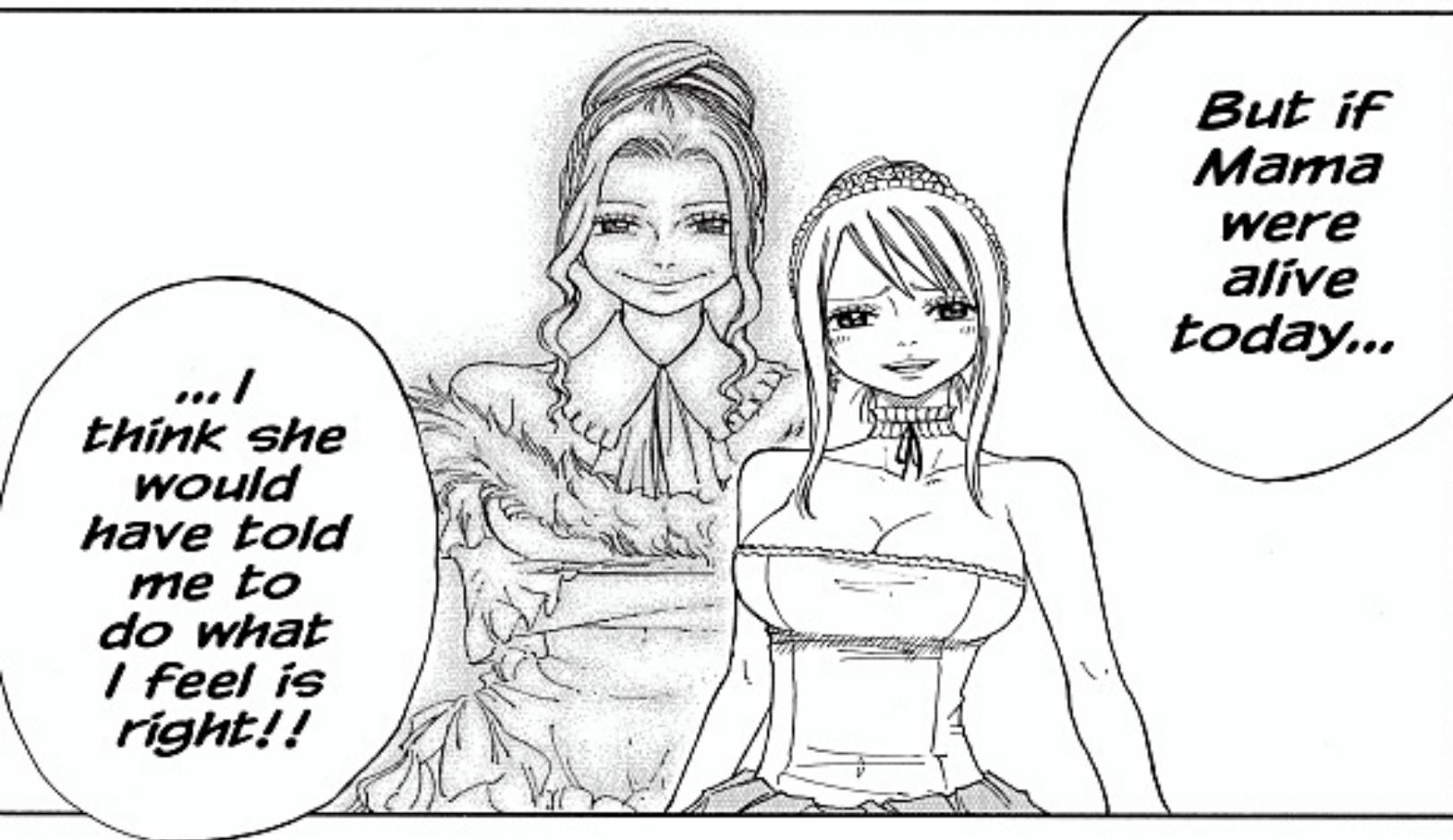


It was, and
is, very
difficult to
part with
them all.

AAAAH
...

!!!

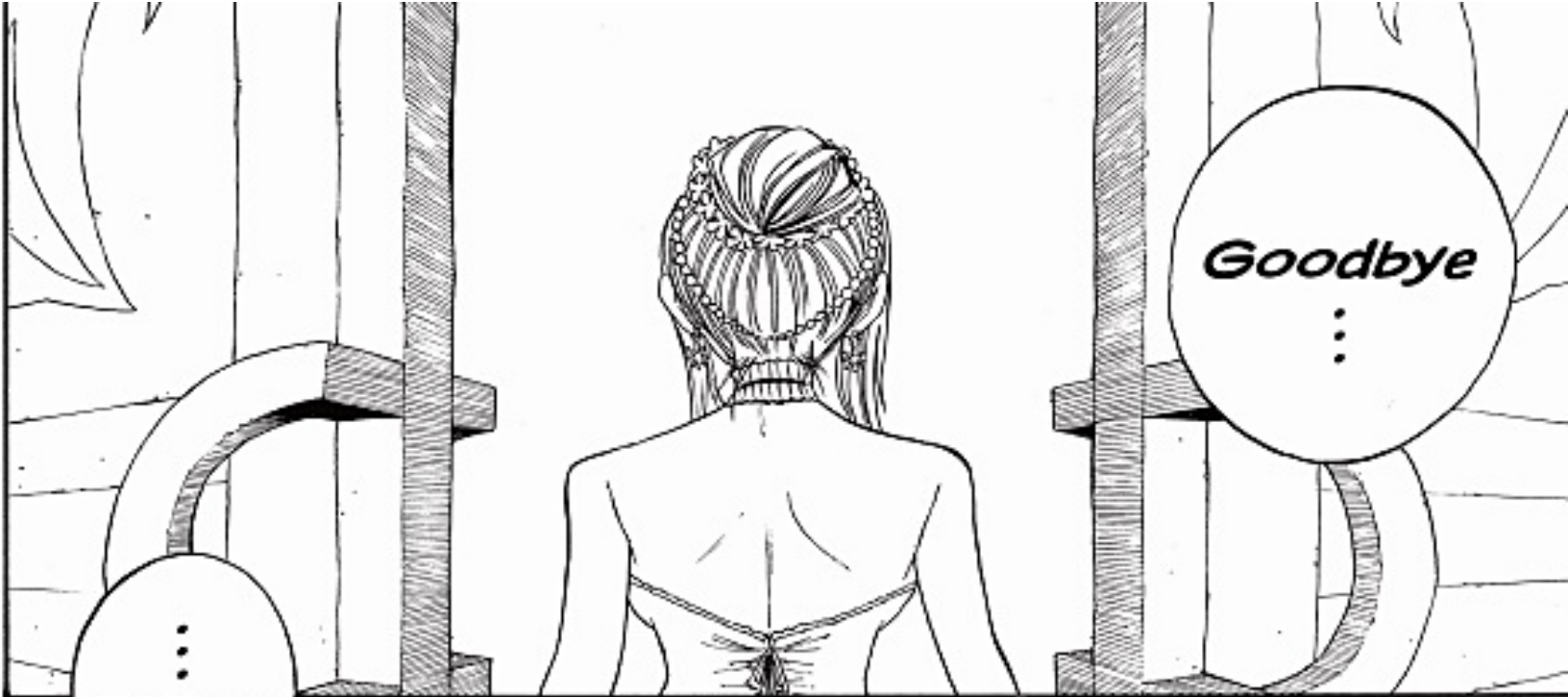
Spetto,
Old Man
Bero,
Ribbon,
Red...



...I
think she
would
have told
me to
do what
I feel is
right!!

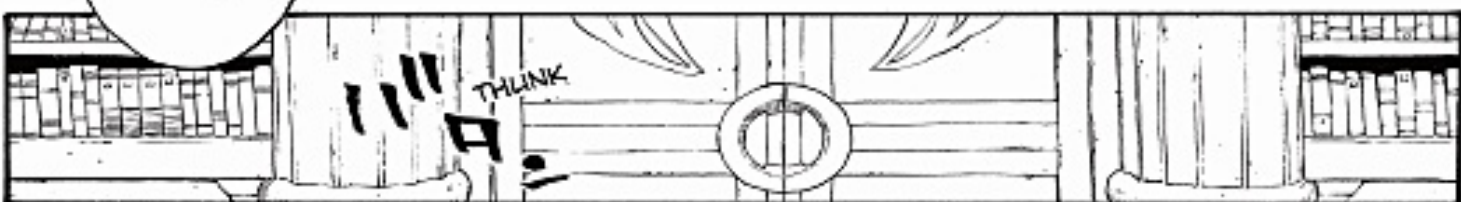
*But if
Mama
were
alive
today...*





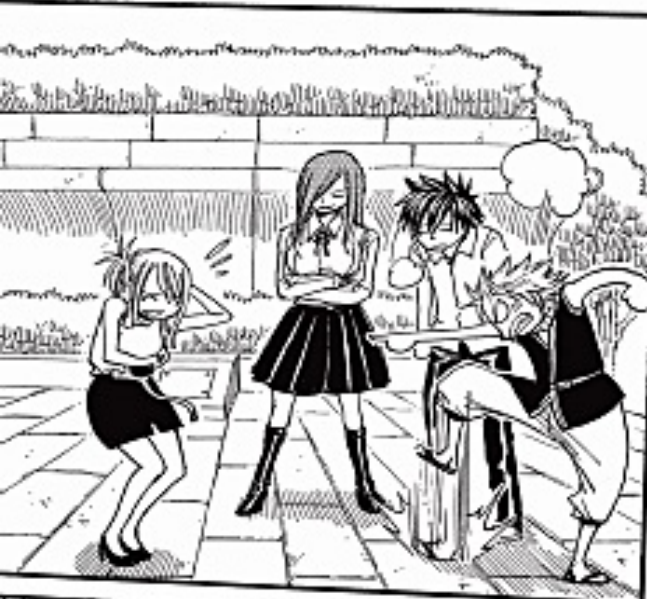
⋮
Father.

Goodbye
⋮

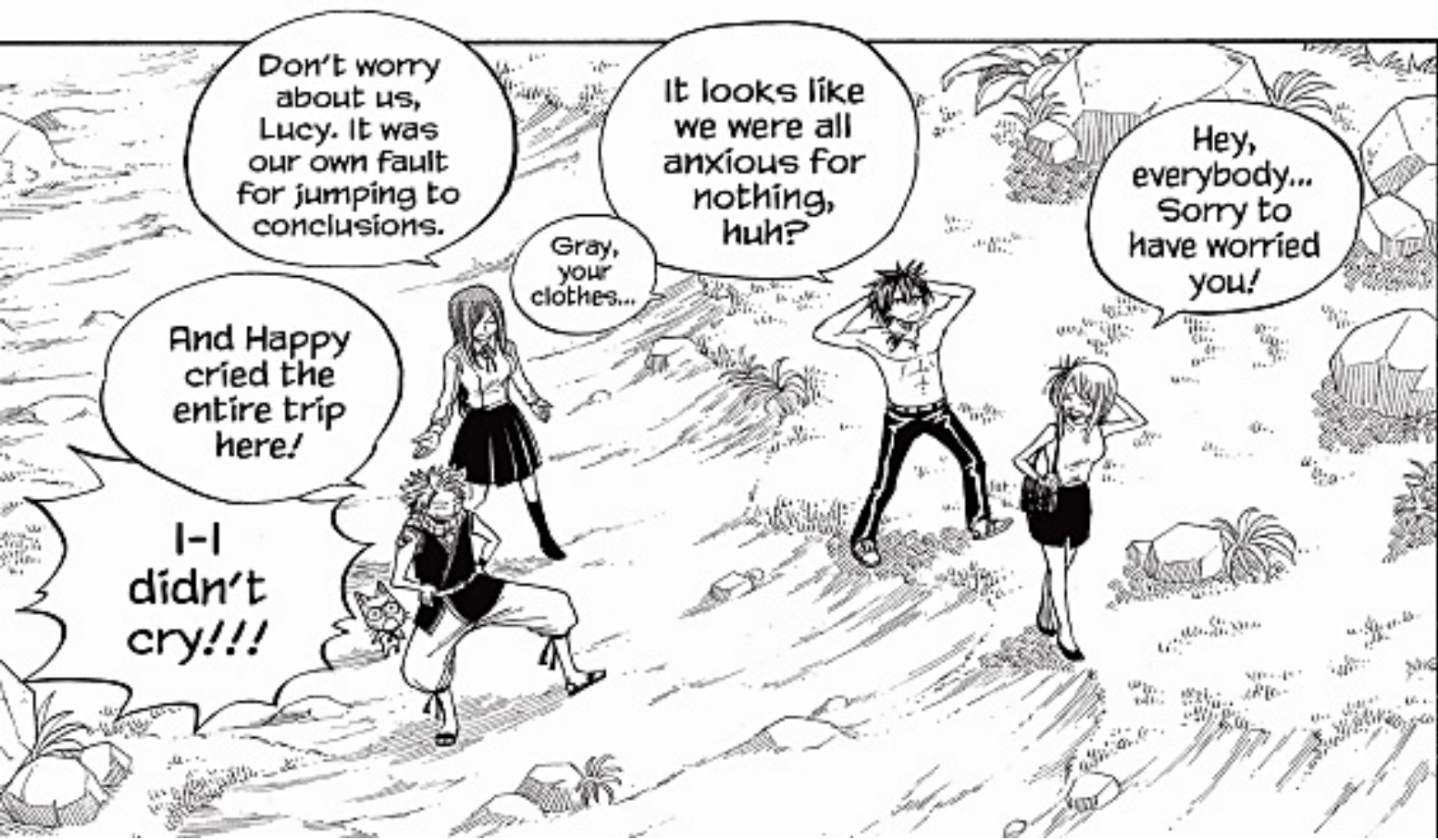


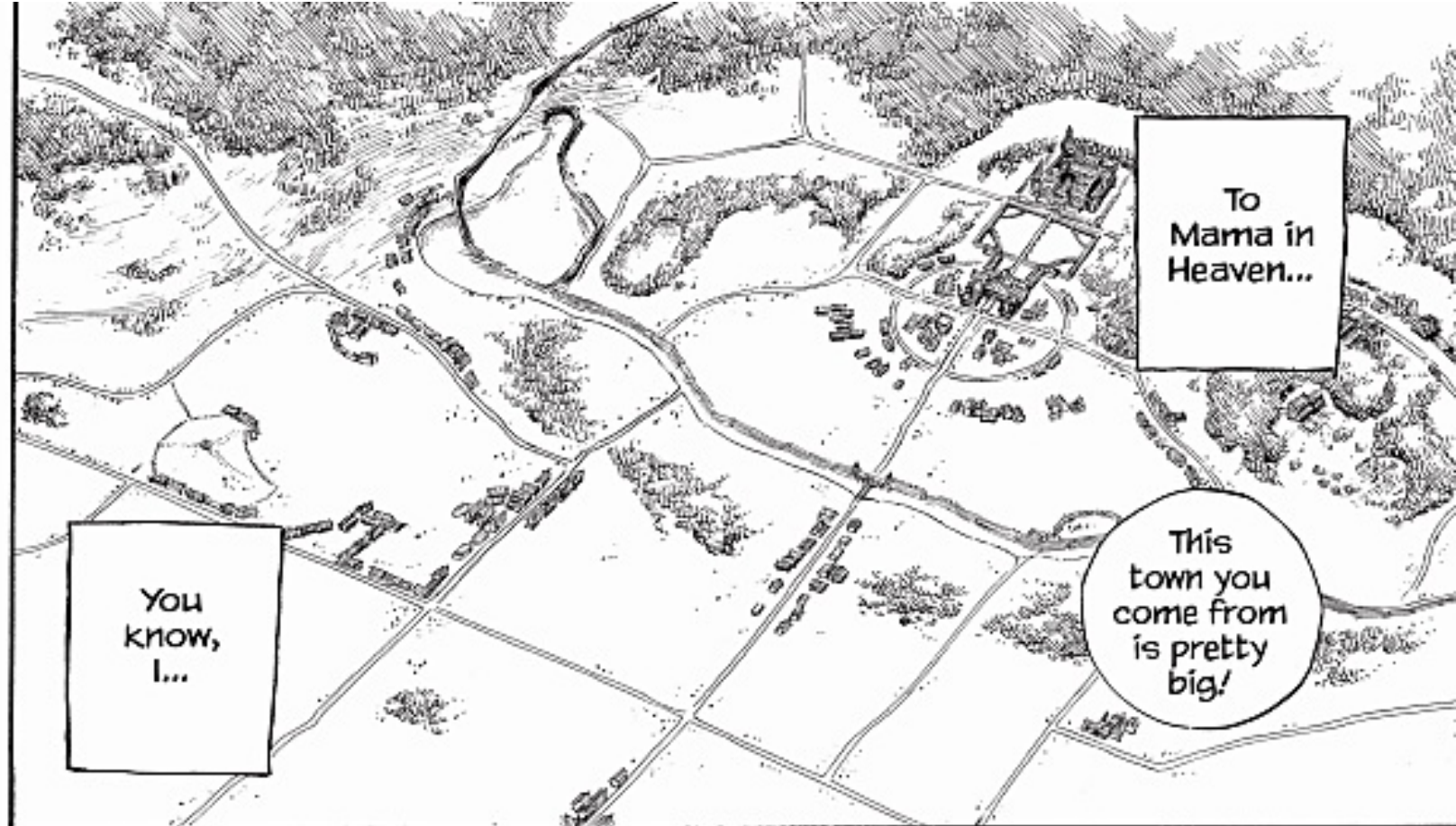
Layla Heartfilia
Year 748–Year 777











To
Mama in
Heaven...

You
know,
I...

This
town you
come from
is pretty
big!



Ah...No!
This is just
the garden.
Everything from
here to beyond
that mountain
is my family's
place.



After all,
Fairy Tail
is a part
of me
now.

Such
a blue
sky...

Oh no!!
Commander
Erza is
broken,
too!!!

Natsu and
Gray have
gone bye-bye.
Commander Erza,
could you say a
word, please?

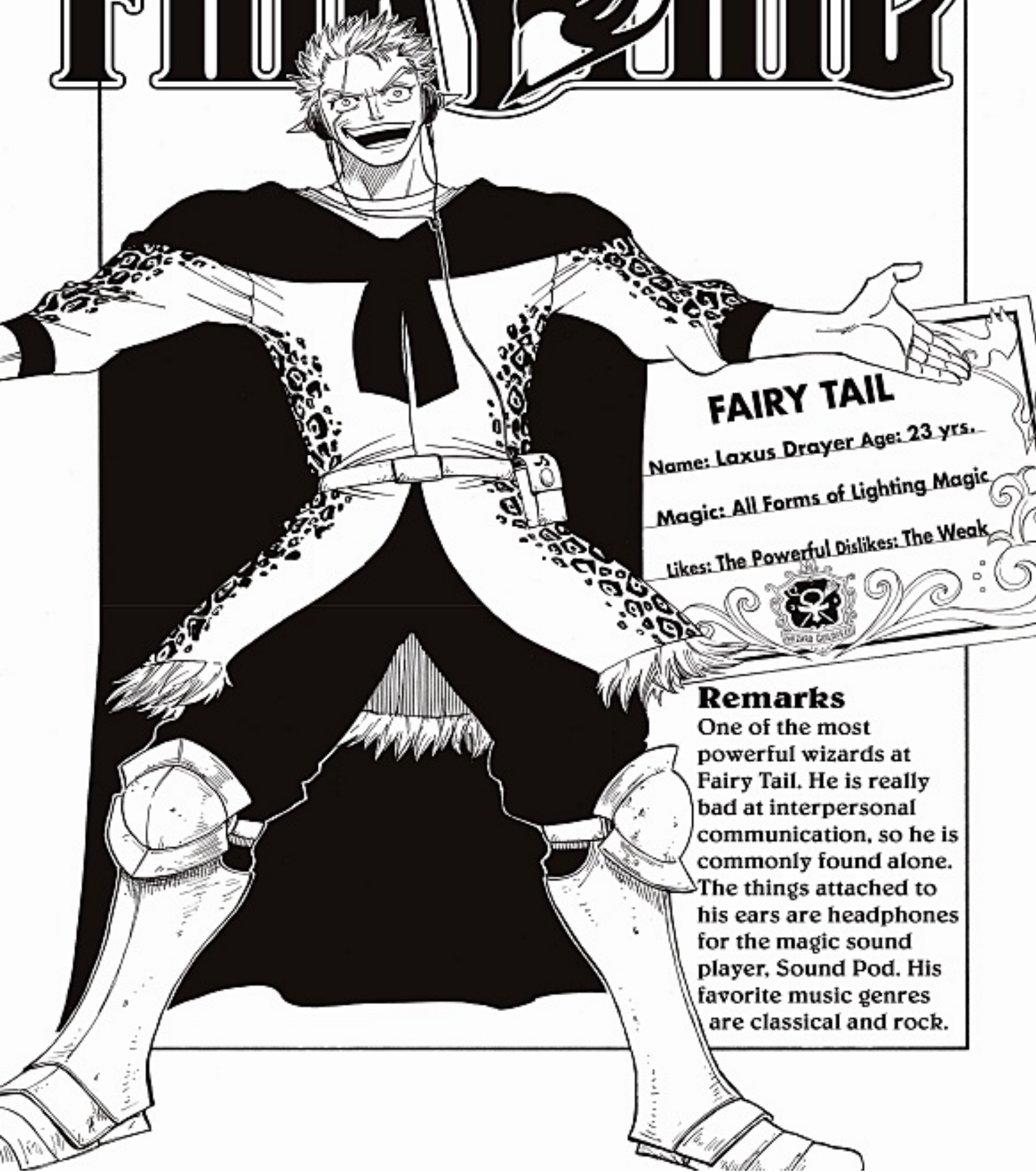
And she
brags with
such a
casual look
on her face!

The
young
mistress
has
arrived
!!

Huh?
What's
with you
guys?

...I don't
think I
could keep
going
without
everybody's
help.

FAIRY TAIL



FAIRY TAIL

Name: Laxus Dreyer Age: 23 yrs.

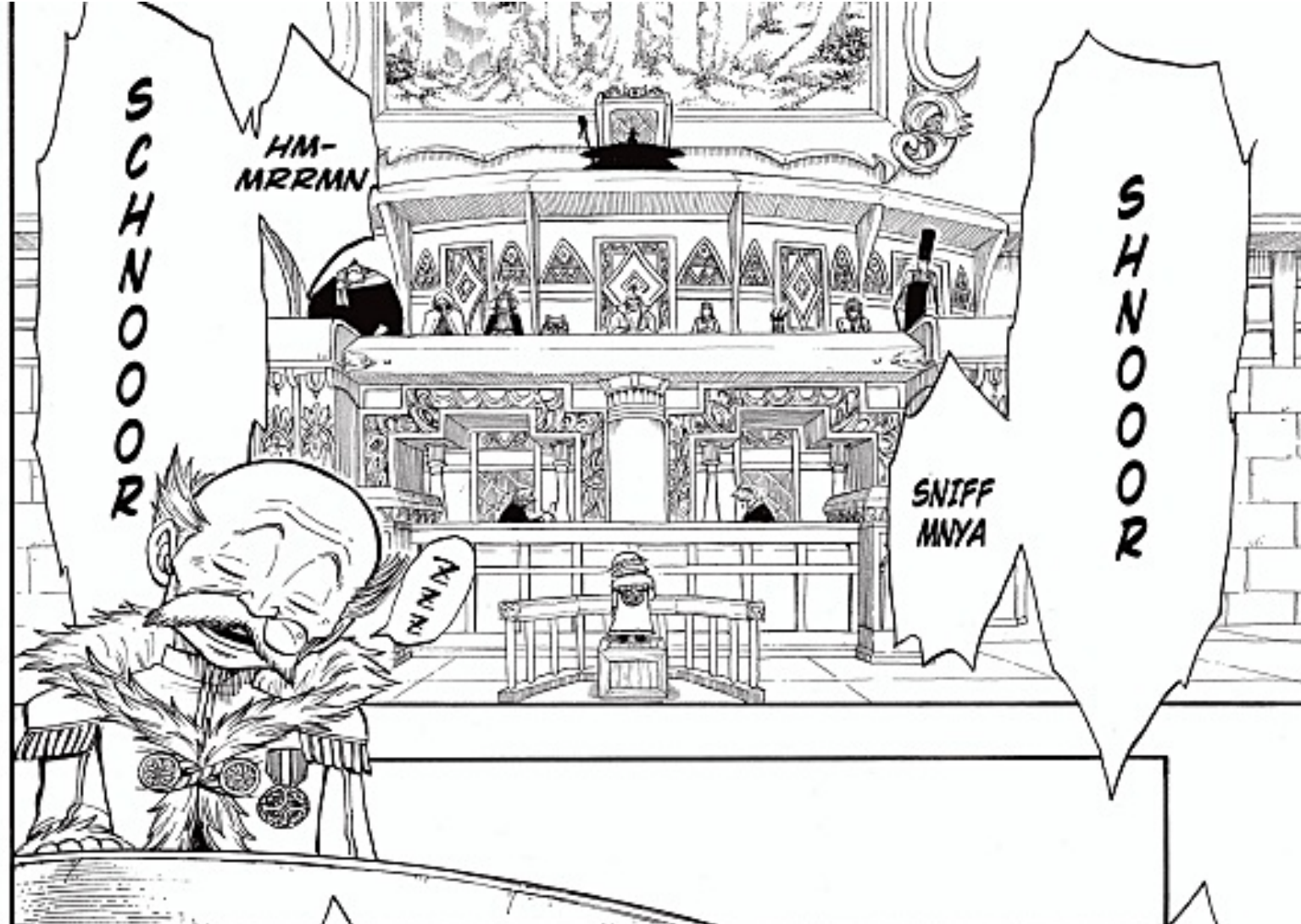
Magic: All Forms of Lightning Magic

Likes: The Powerful Dislikes: The Weak

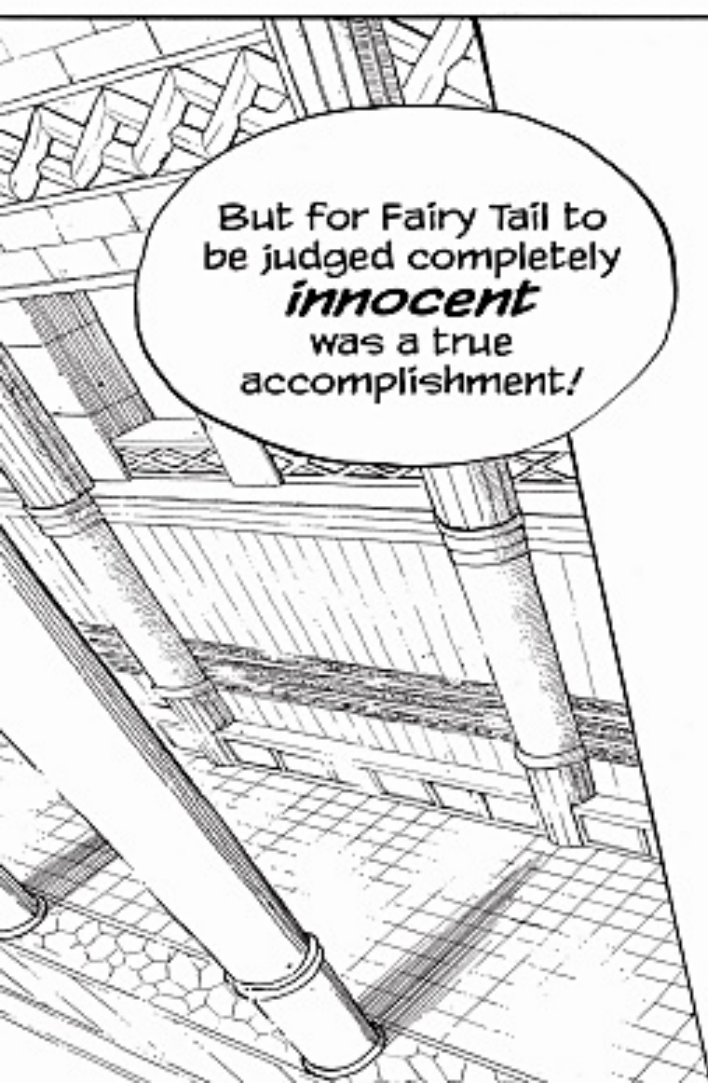


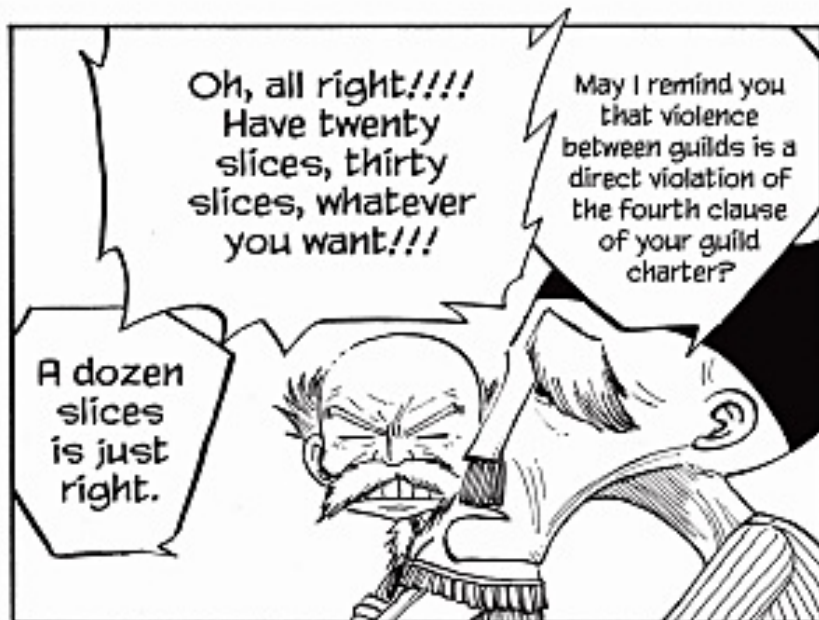
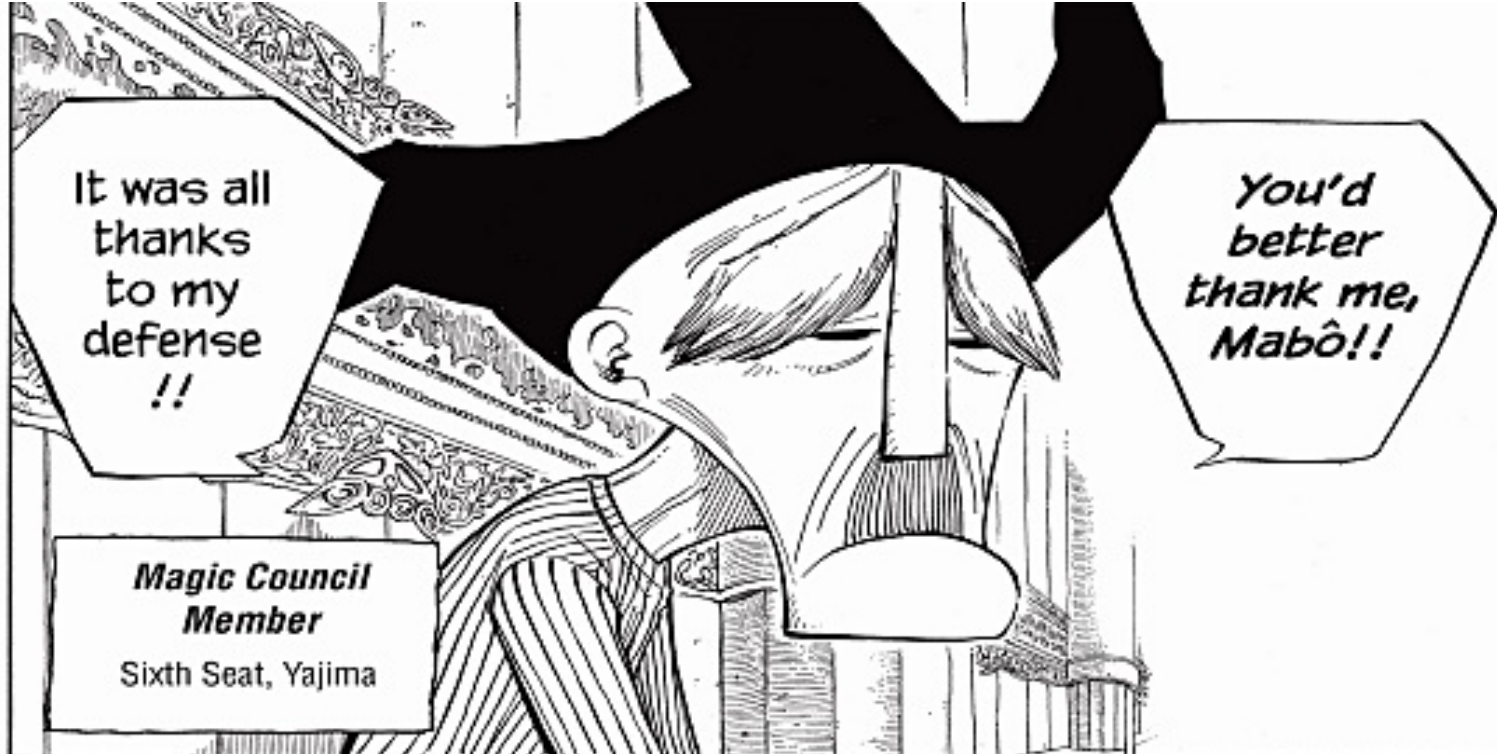
Remarks

One of the most powerful wizards at Fairy Tail. He is really bad at interpersonal communication, so he is commonly found alone. The things attached to his ears are headphones for the magic sound player, Sound Pod. His favorite music genres are classical and rock.



Chapter 69: Next Generation



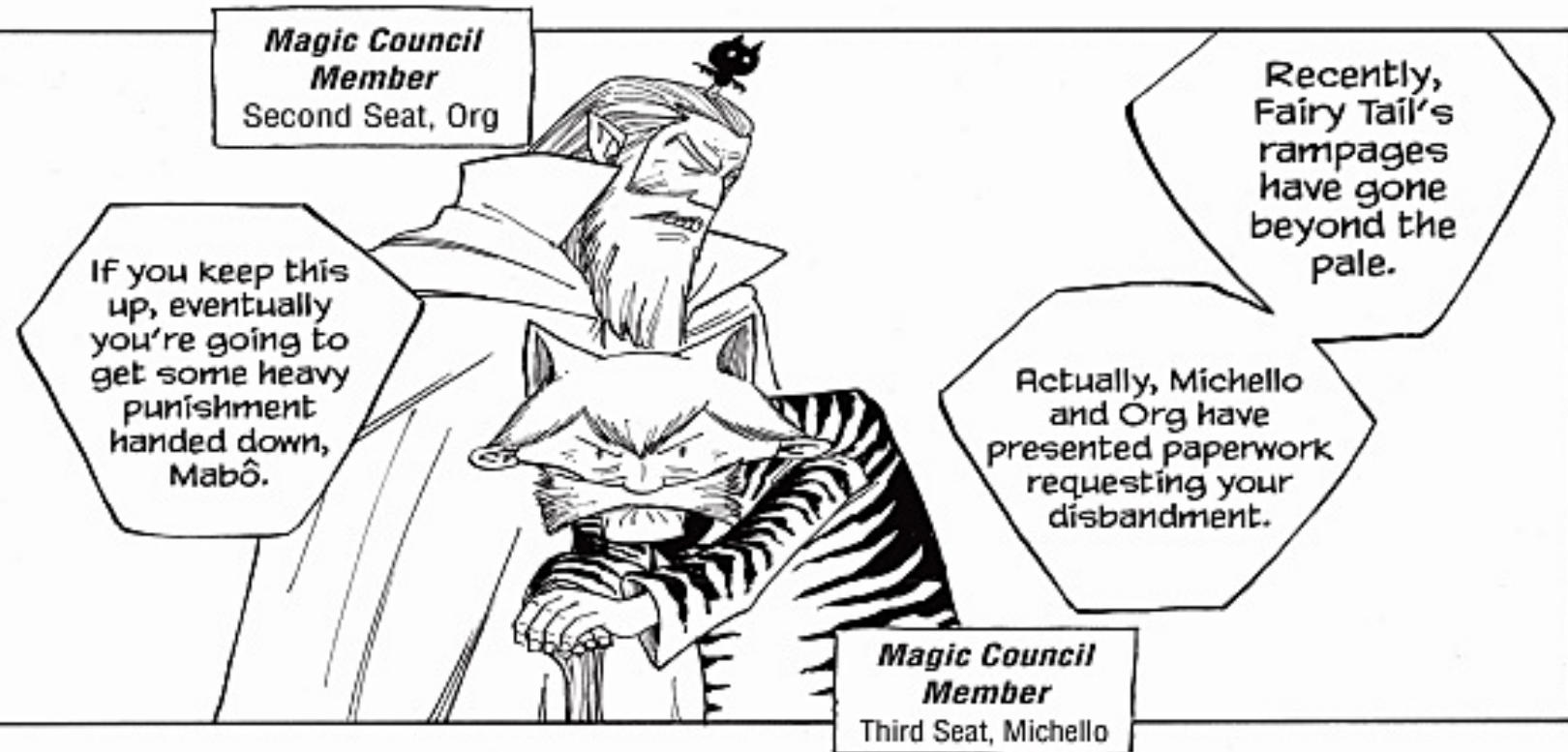




Mabô, don't overdo it anymore, hm?

Well... Thanks. You really helped me.

Huh?



Magic Council Member
Second Seat, Org

If you keep this up, eventually you're going to get some heavy punishment handed down, Mabô.

Recently, Fairy Tail's rampages have gone beyond the pale.

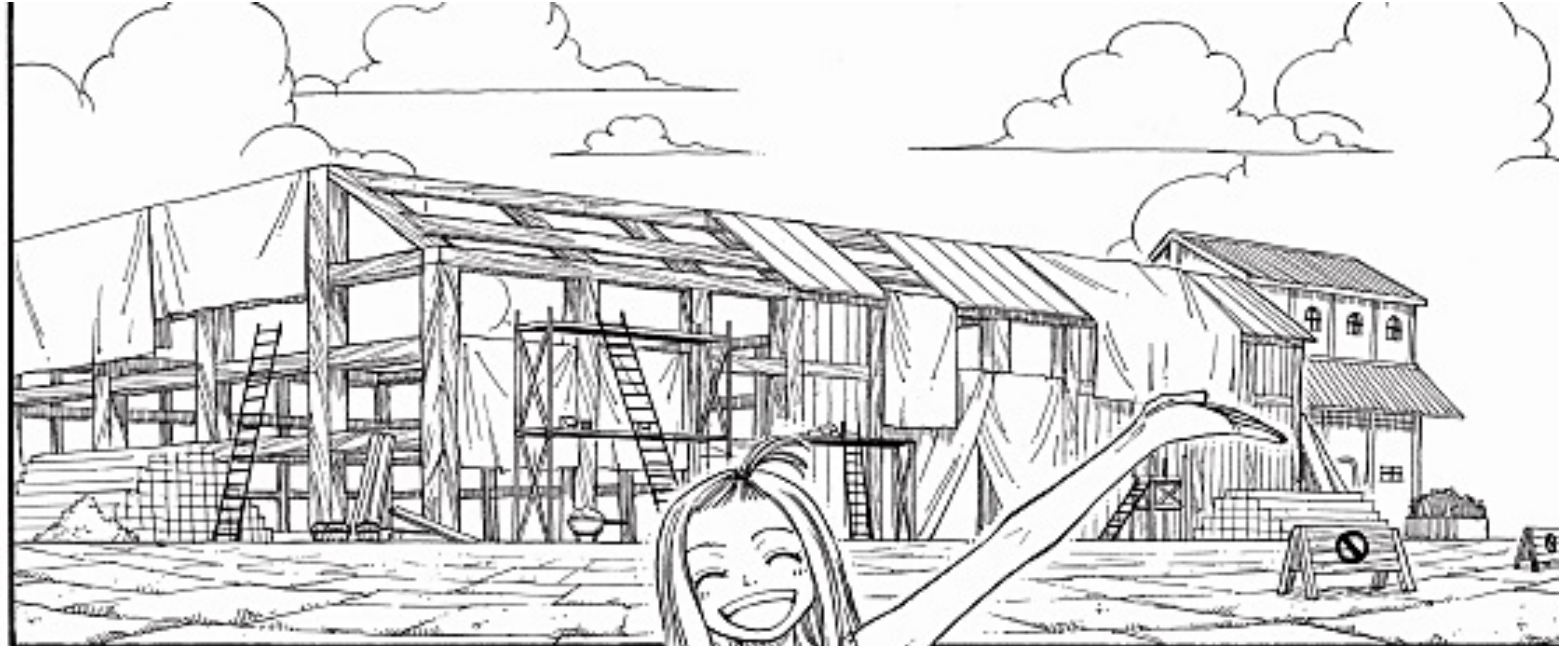
Actually, Michello and Org have presented paperwork requesting your disbandment.

Magic Council Member
Third Seat, Michello



...for your own health.

You should already be retired...



This counter
is just a
temporary
setup, but let's
bring lots of
work to the
guild!!!

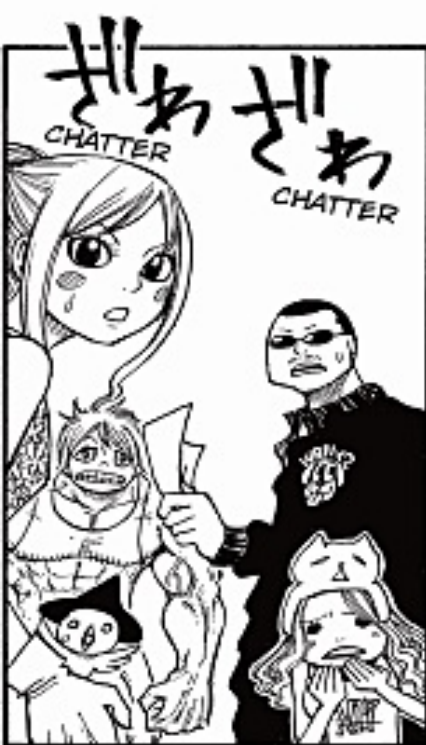
Everybody!!!
From today on,
we will start to
take on jobs
again!!!



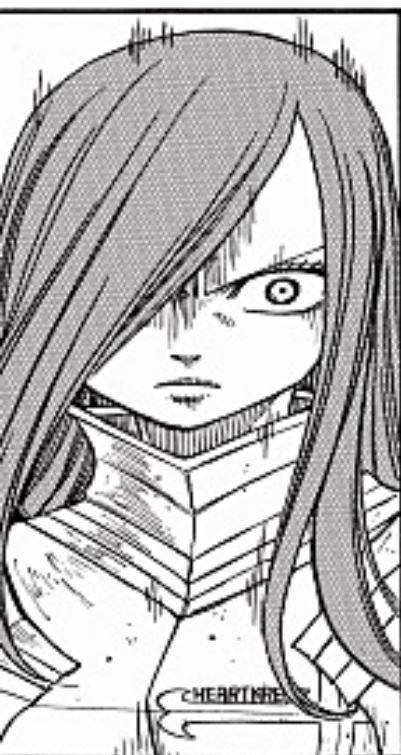
**Jobs
!!!
Jobs
!!!**

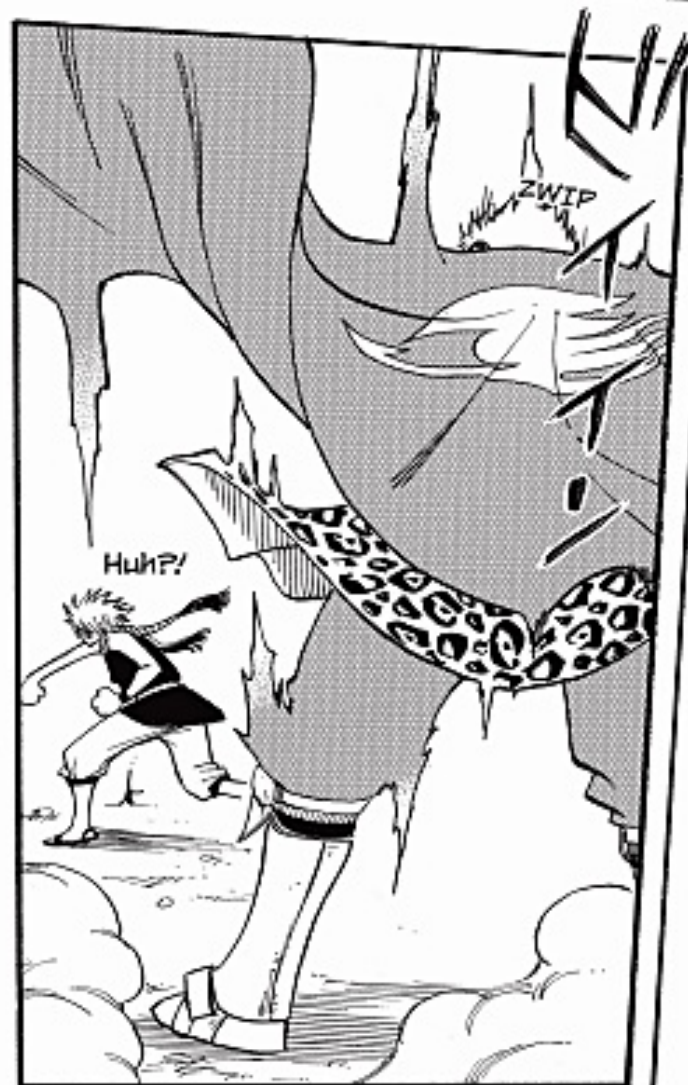
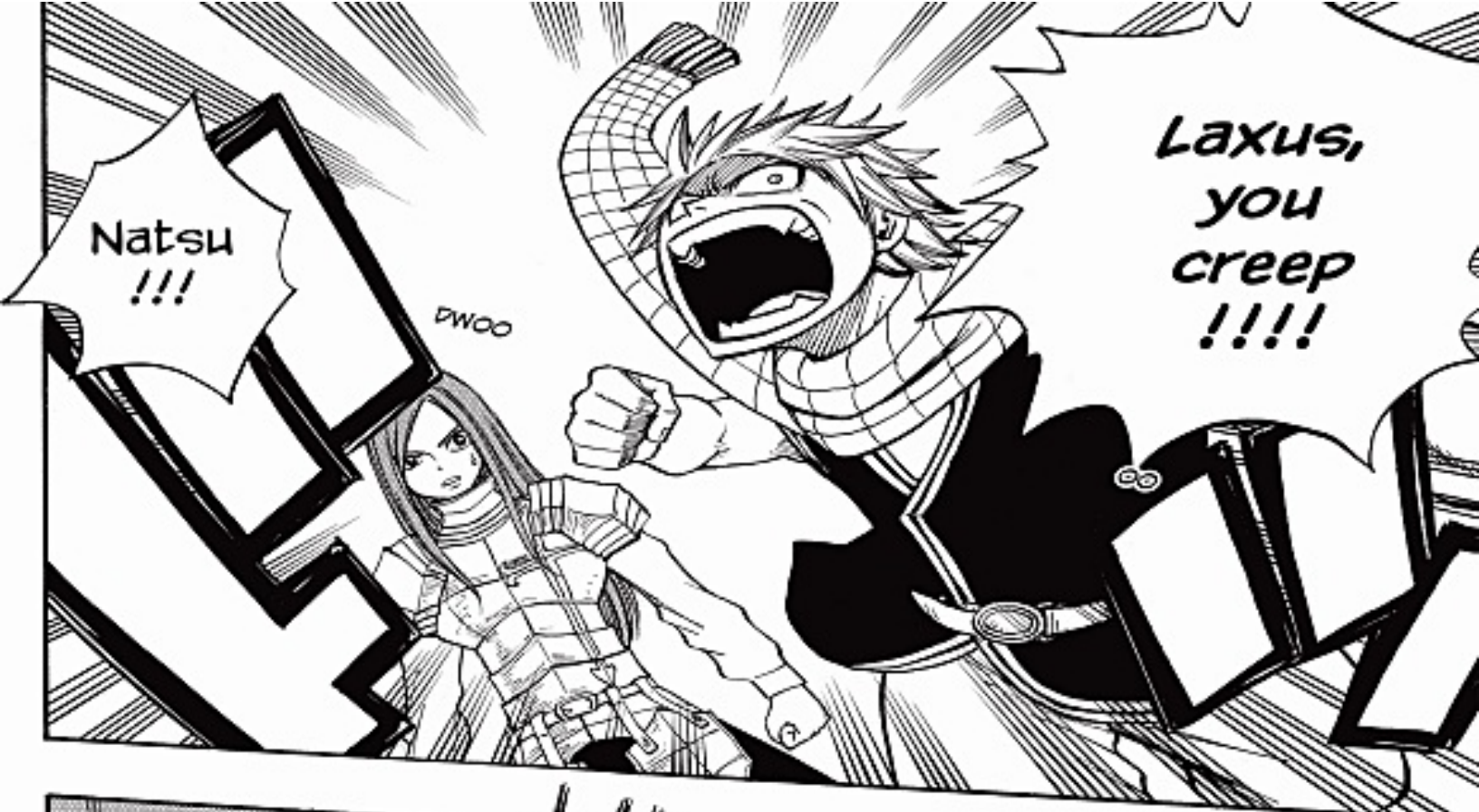
**y e a h h h h
!!!!**











Ah ha ha ha!!
What kind of fight would it be when you can't even touch me?!!

Laxus!!!
Come on and fight me, you heartless creep!!!!

Ah ha ha ha!!
What kind of fight would it be when you can't even touch me?!!

Laxus!!!
Come on and fight me, you heartless creep!!!!

The weaklings and anybody who tries to oppose me—every last one!!!!

When I inherit the guild, I'm going to clean out all of the weaklings!!!!

The weaklings and anybody who tries to oppose me—every last one!!!!

When I inherit the guild, I'm going to clean out all of the weaklings!!!!

は は は は は

It'll be the most powerful in history, and nobody will ever think of giving us any crap!!!!

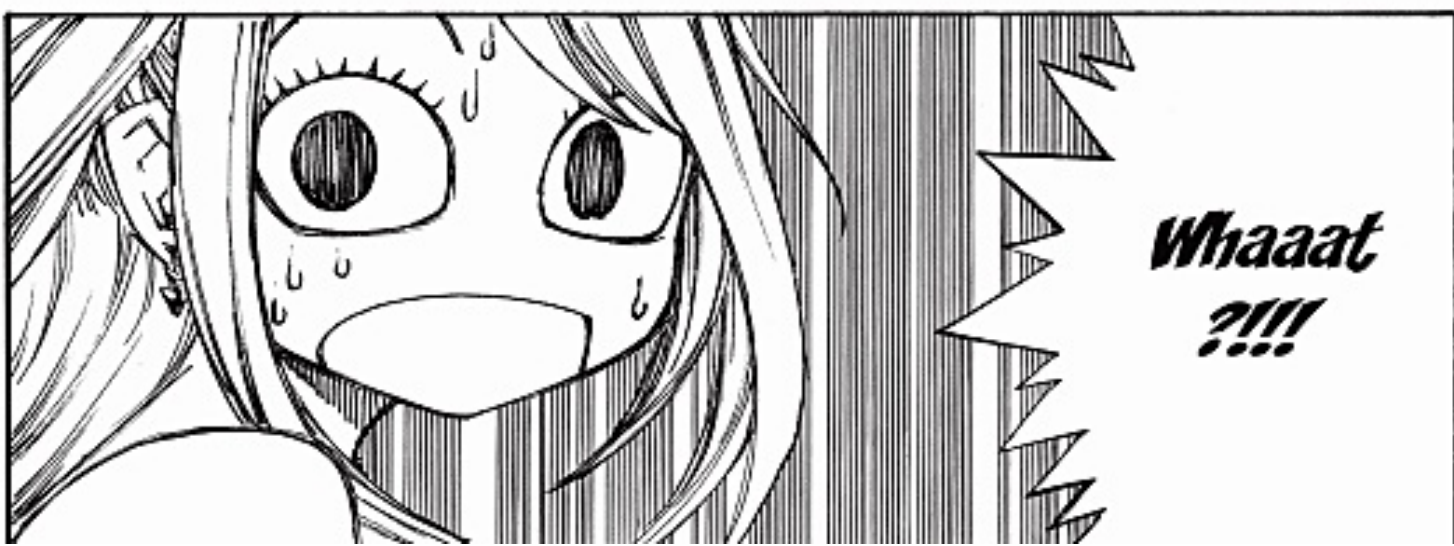


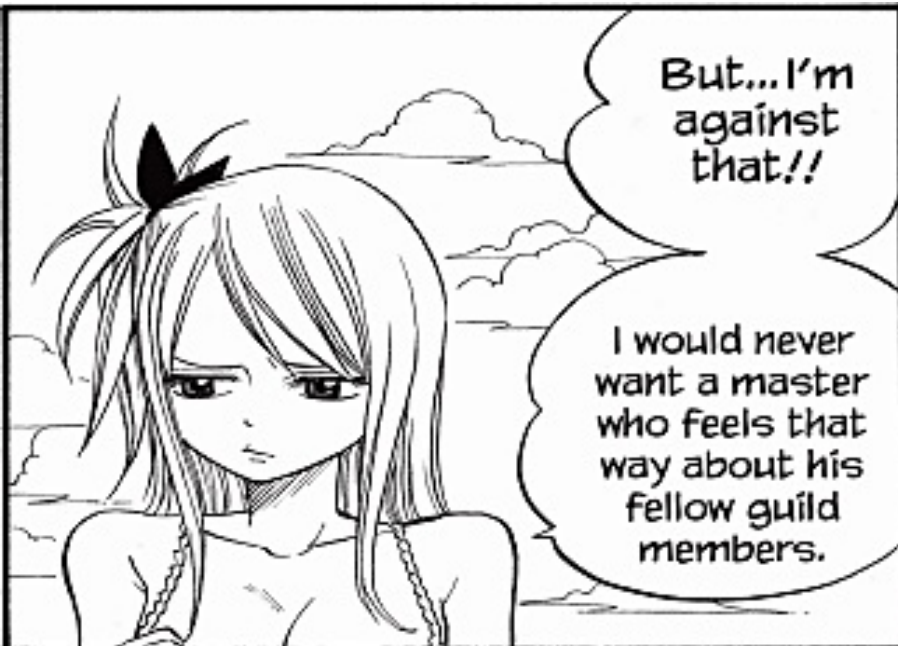
This guild will be the strongest guild there is!!!!

It'll be the most powerful in history, and nobody will ever think of giving us any crap!!!!



This guild will be the strongest guild there is!!!!





But...I'm
against
that!!

I would never
want a master
who feels that
way about his
fellow guild
members.



Y-You're
kidding...

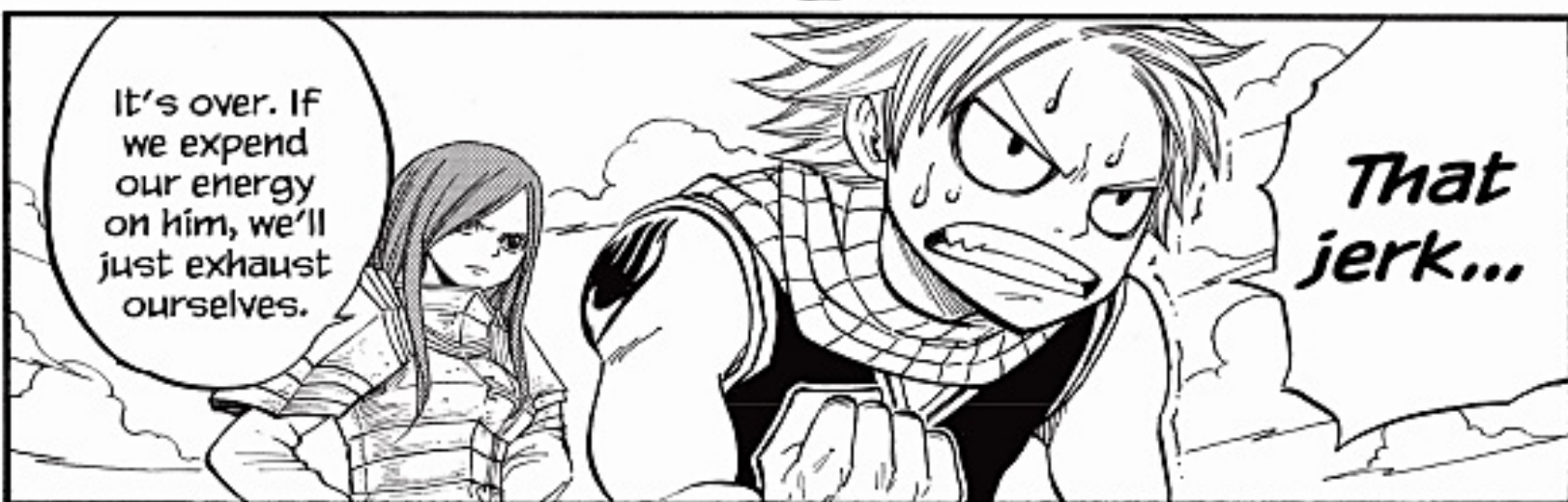
So when the
Master retires, the
odds that Laxus
will become the
new Master are
extremely good.



They're just
rumors. In reality,
nobody's ever heard
the Master mention
anything about who
the next Master
will be.

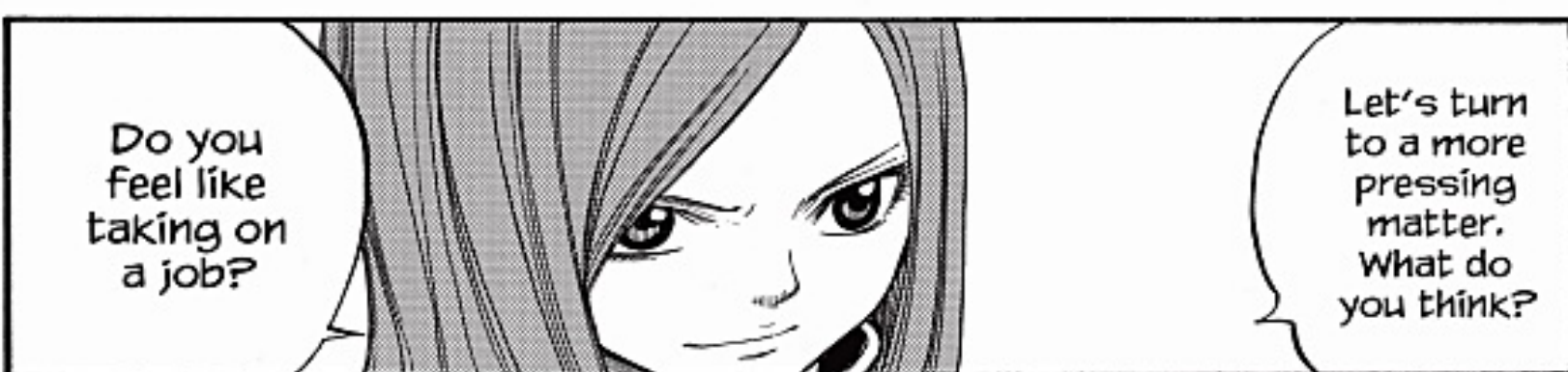
You mean
he's waiting
for that
creep to
shape up?

It's for that
reason the
rumors about
the Master being
unable to retire
are flying
around.



It's over. If
we expend
our energy
on him, we'll
just exhaust
ourselves.

*That
jerk...*



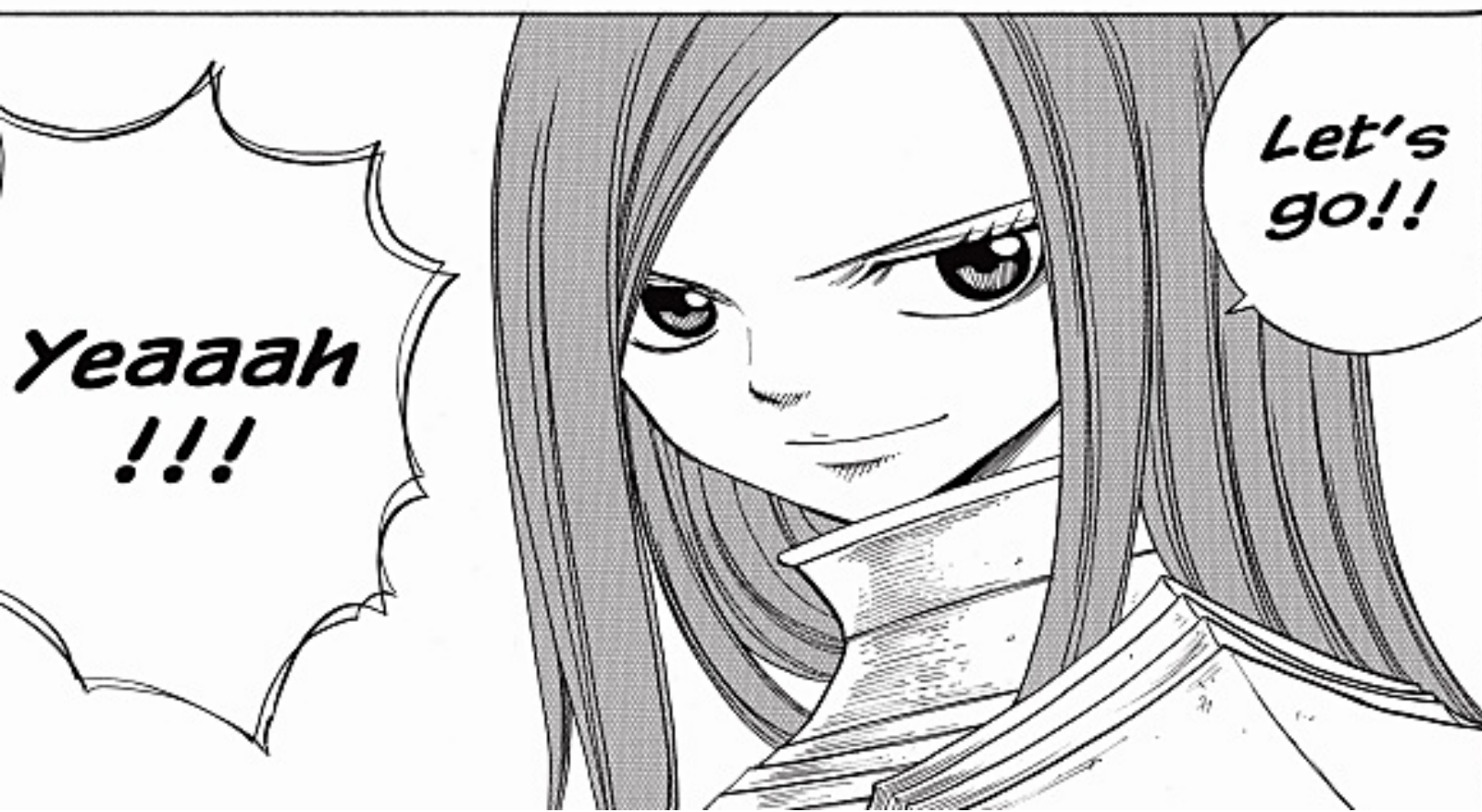
Do you
feel like
taking on
a job?

Let's turn
to a more
pressing
matter.
What do
you think?



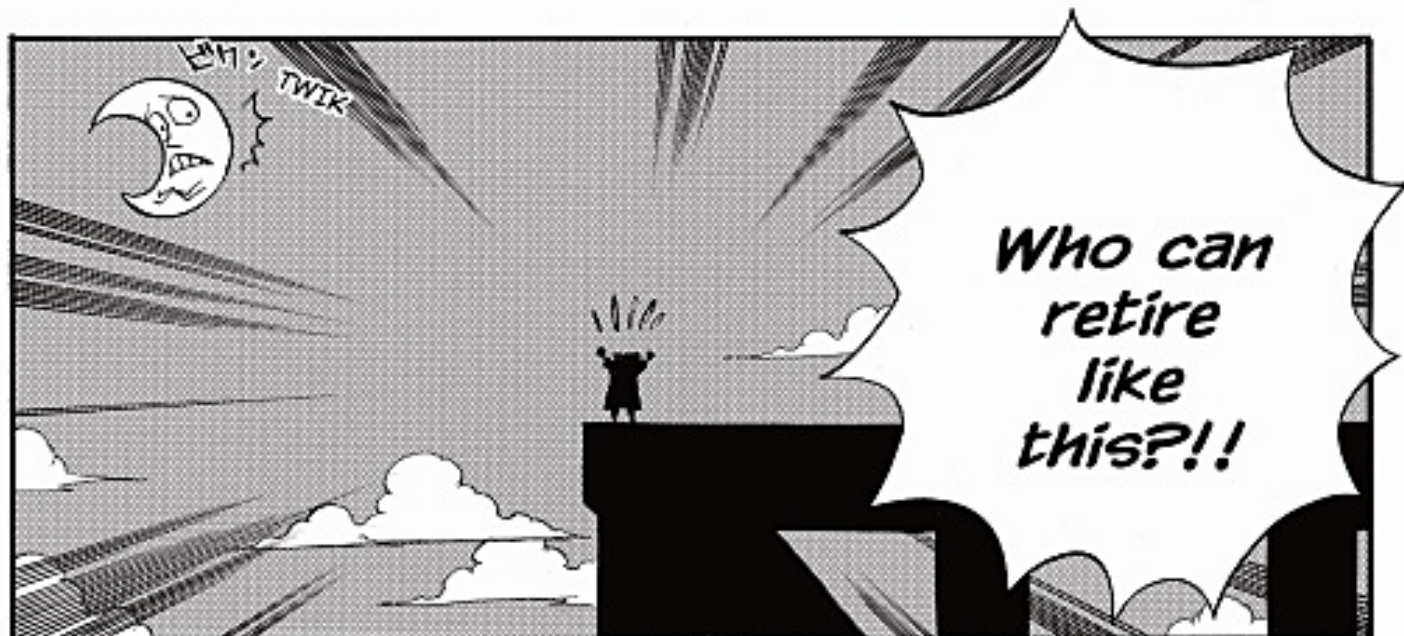
We've been working together anyway ever since the Eisenwald incident.



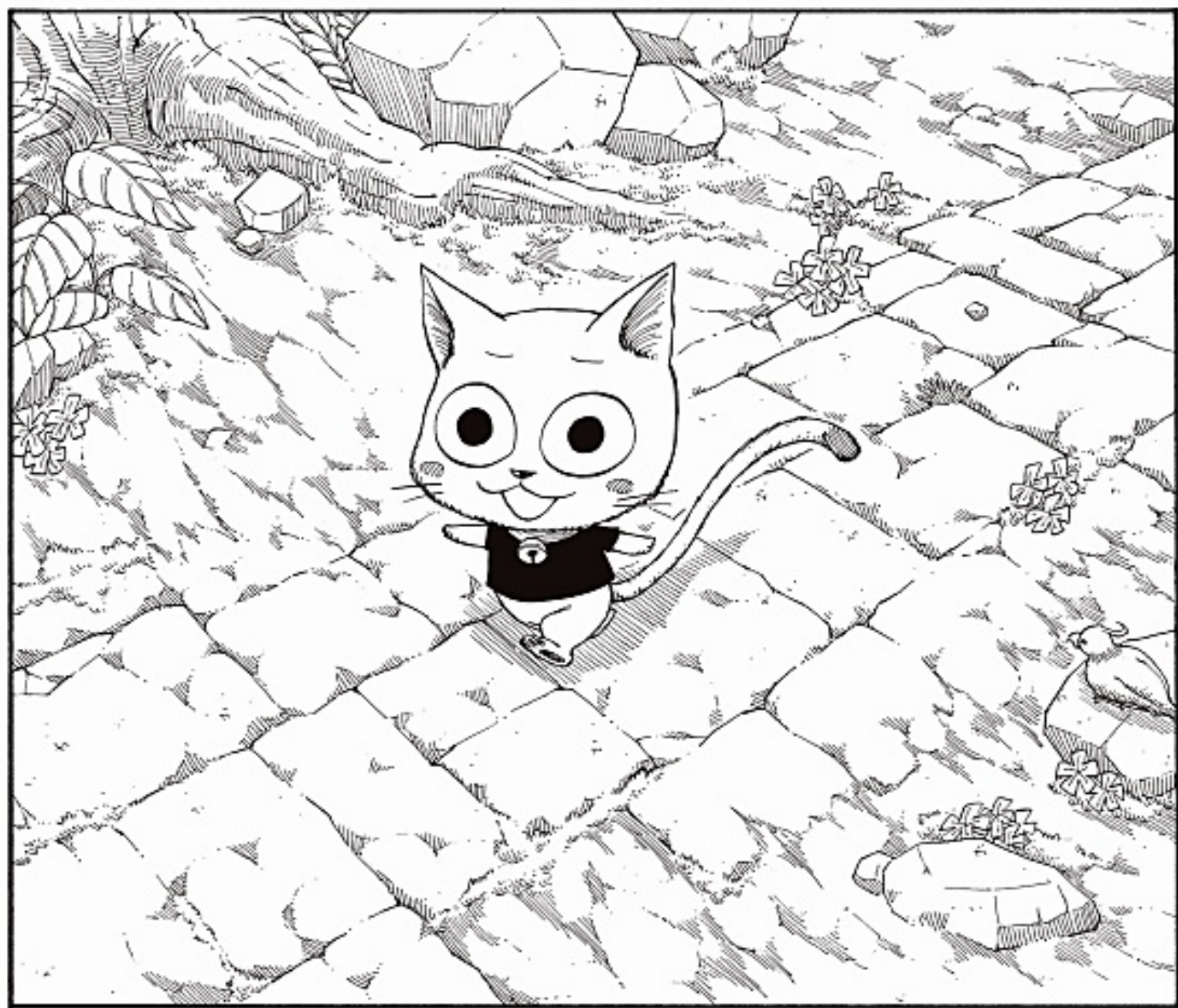




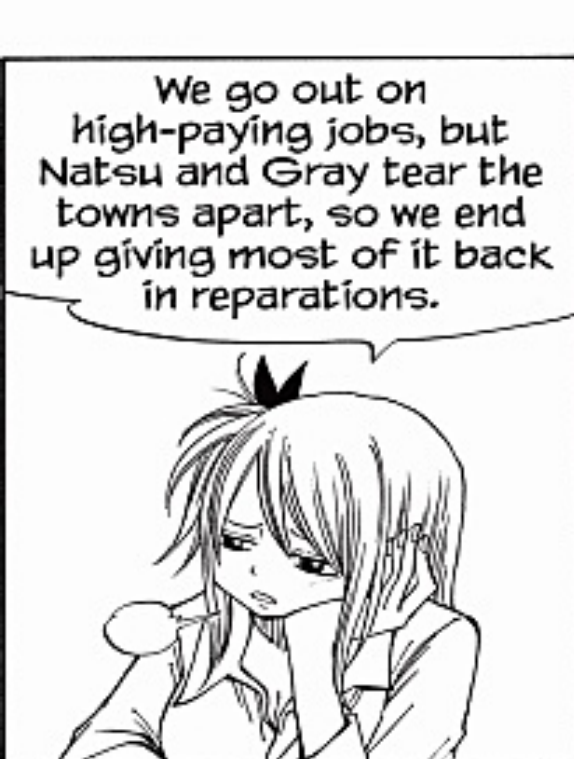
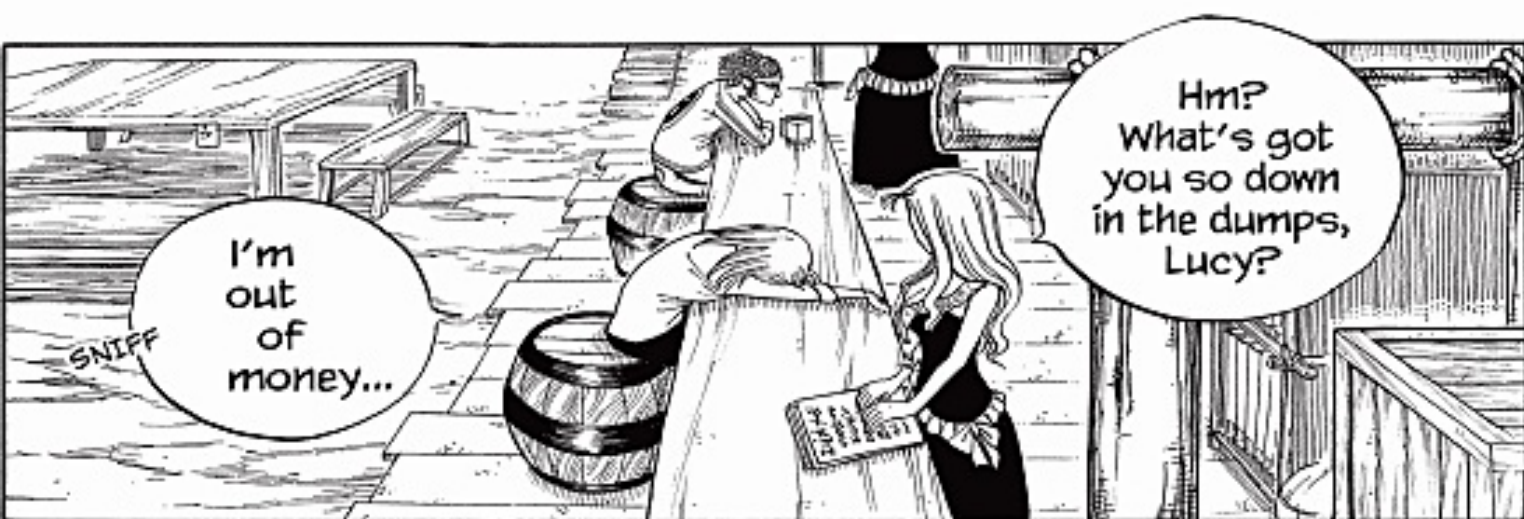




FAIRYTAIL



Chapter 70: Frederick & Yandérica





This sport takes too much skill for you!

All right!! I go first!!

I'm all worried, and look at them!

Where did you guys get that thing?!



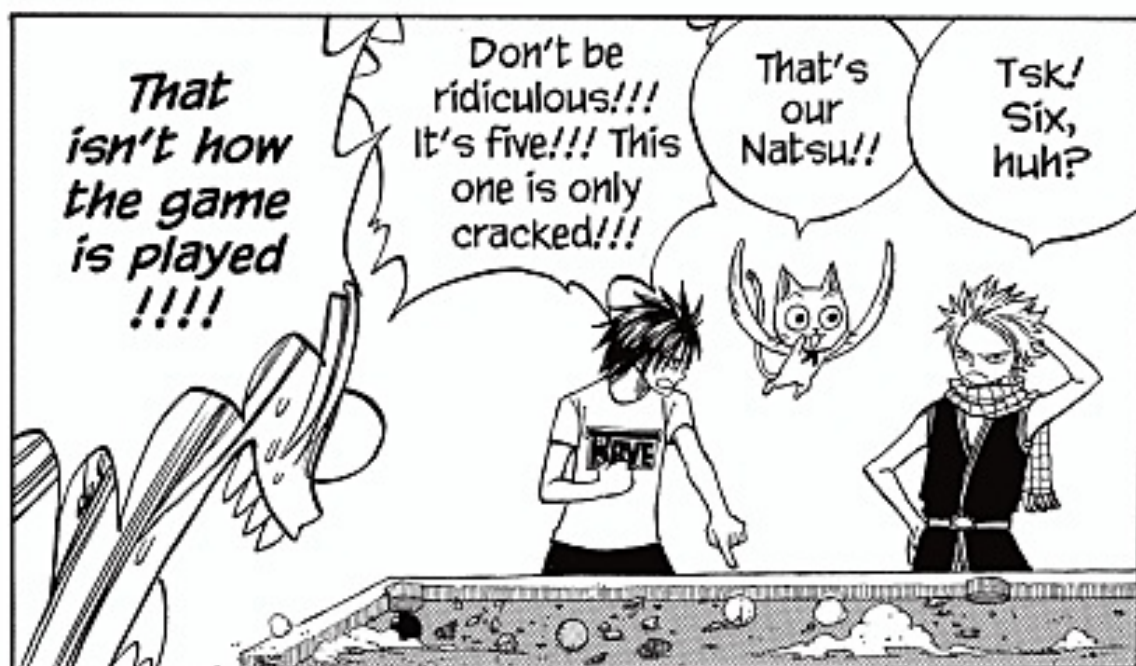
KRAK

GWOOGH

GRUNCH

GANCH

Hyaahh!!!!



That isn't how the game is played !!!!

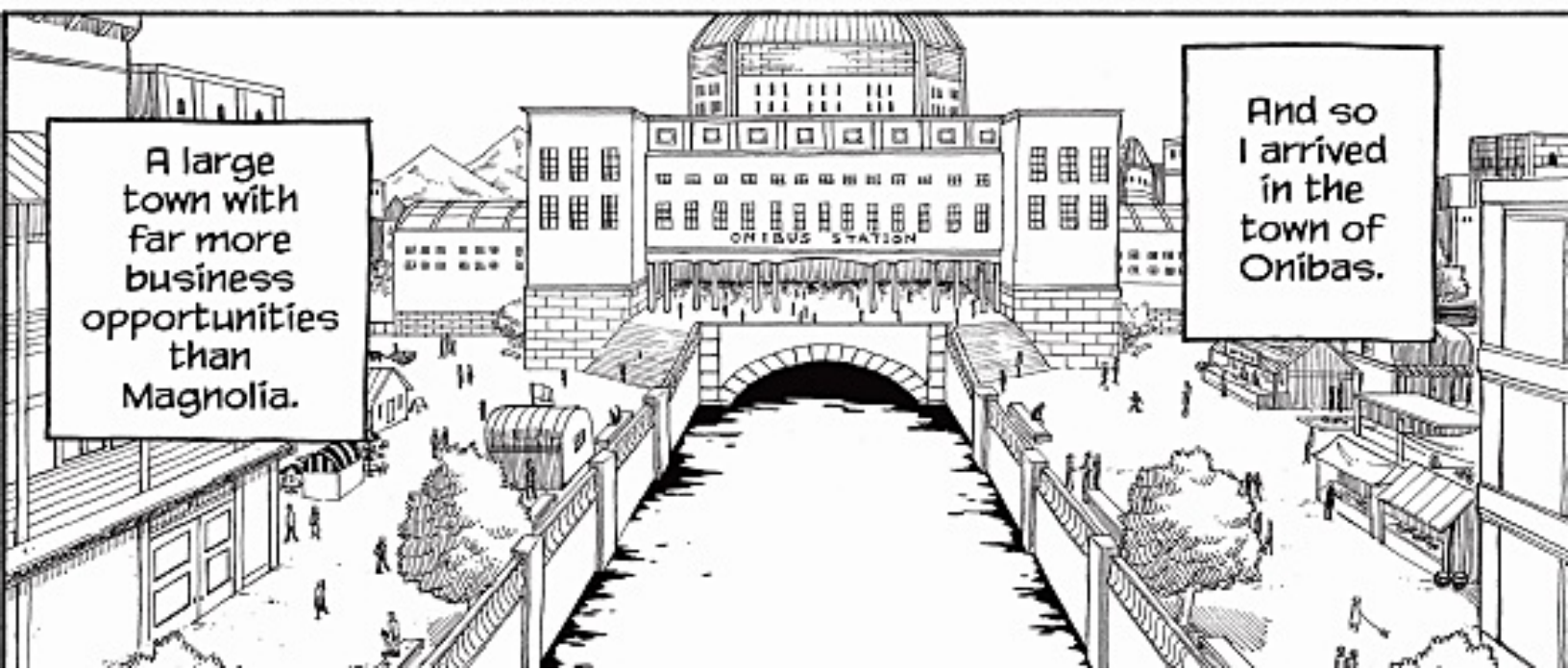
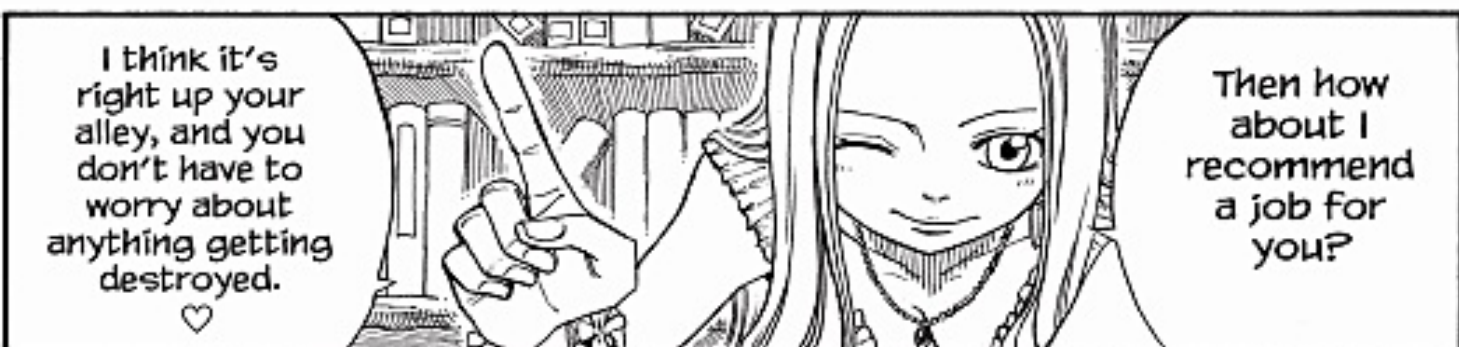
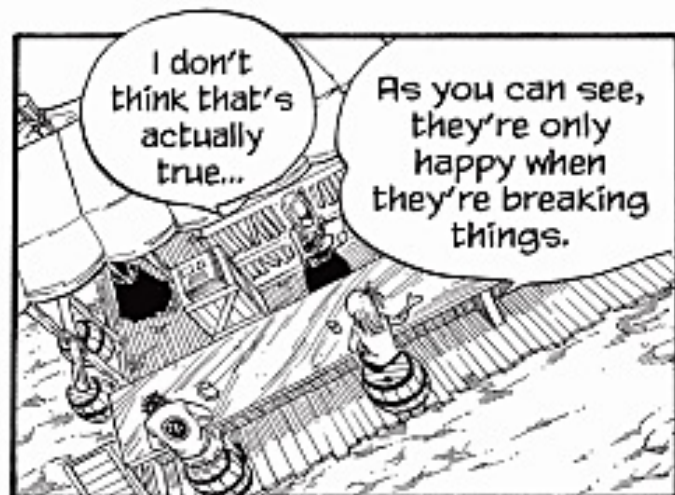
Don't be ridiculous!!! It's five!!! This one is only cracked!!!

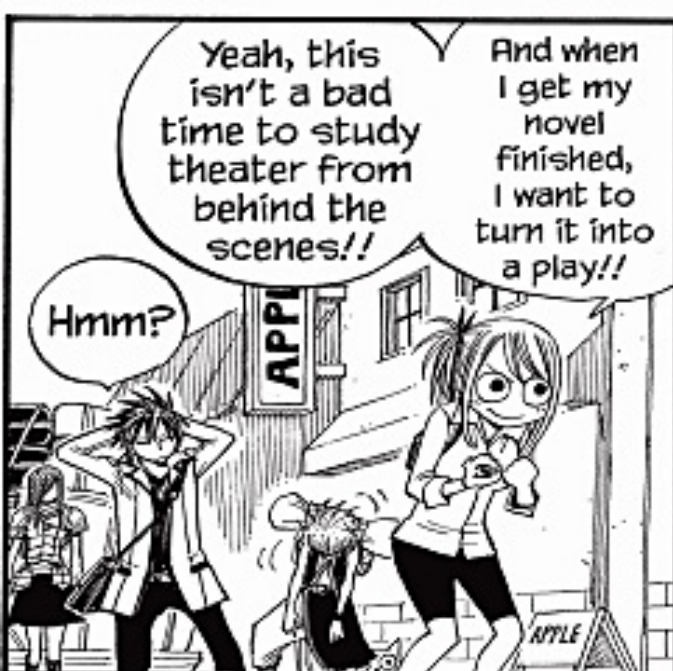
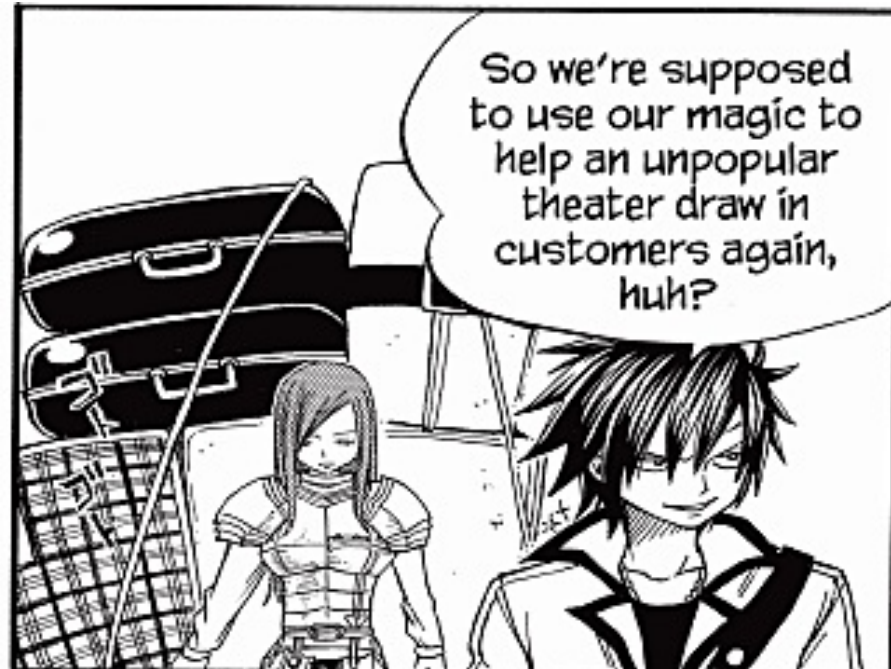
That's our Natsu!!

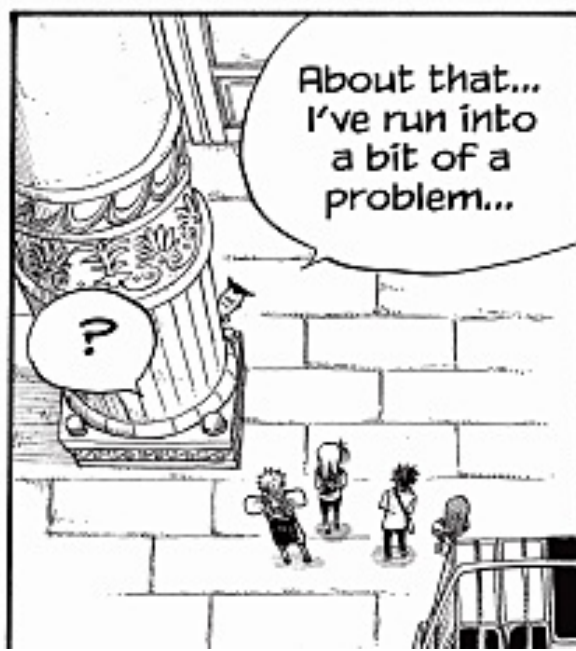
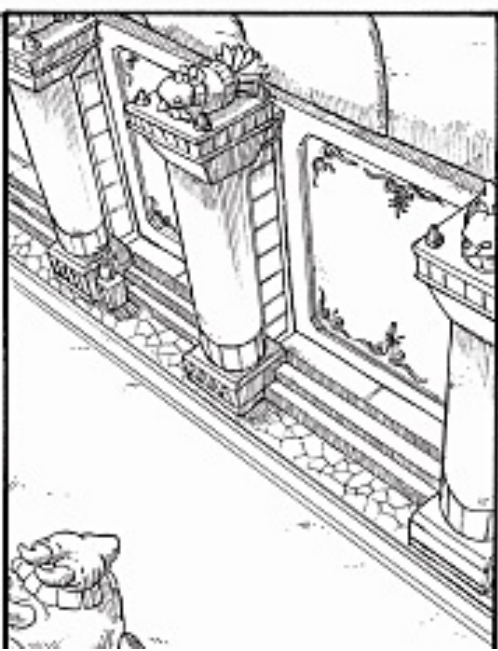
Tsk! Six, huh?



ふしゅううう
PSSHHHH

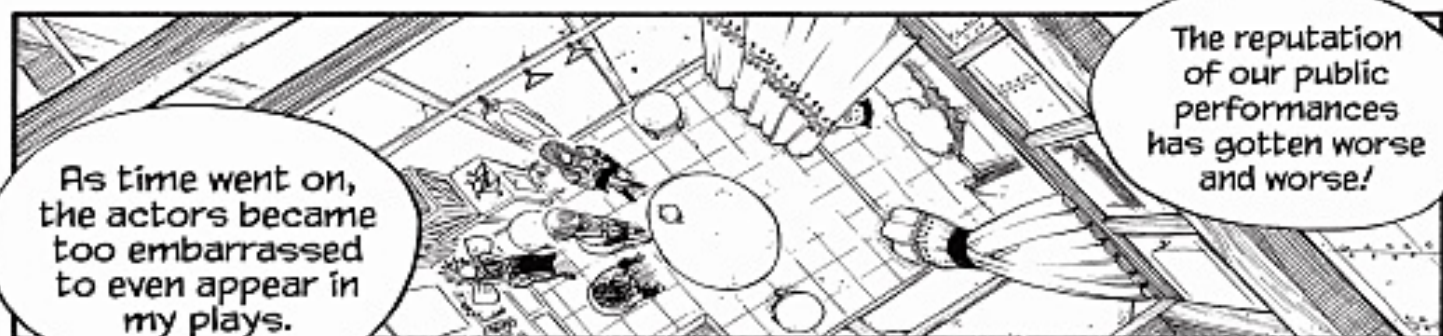








Whaa?!!
All of your
actors have
run out on
you?!!



As time went on,
the actors became
too embarrassed
to even appear in
my plays.

The reputation
of our public
performances
has gotten worse
and worse!



And although I'm
glad you came here,
I'm afraid there is no
play to put on, thank
you very much.



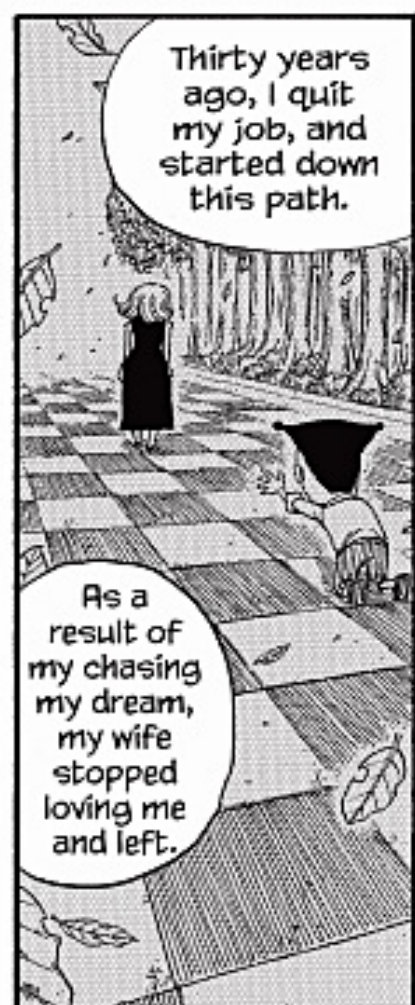
I was
wondering
what the
story would
be.

Heh!



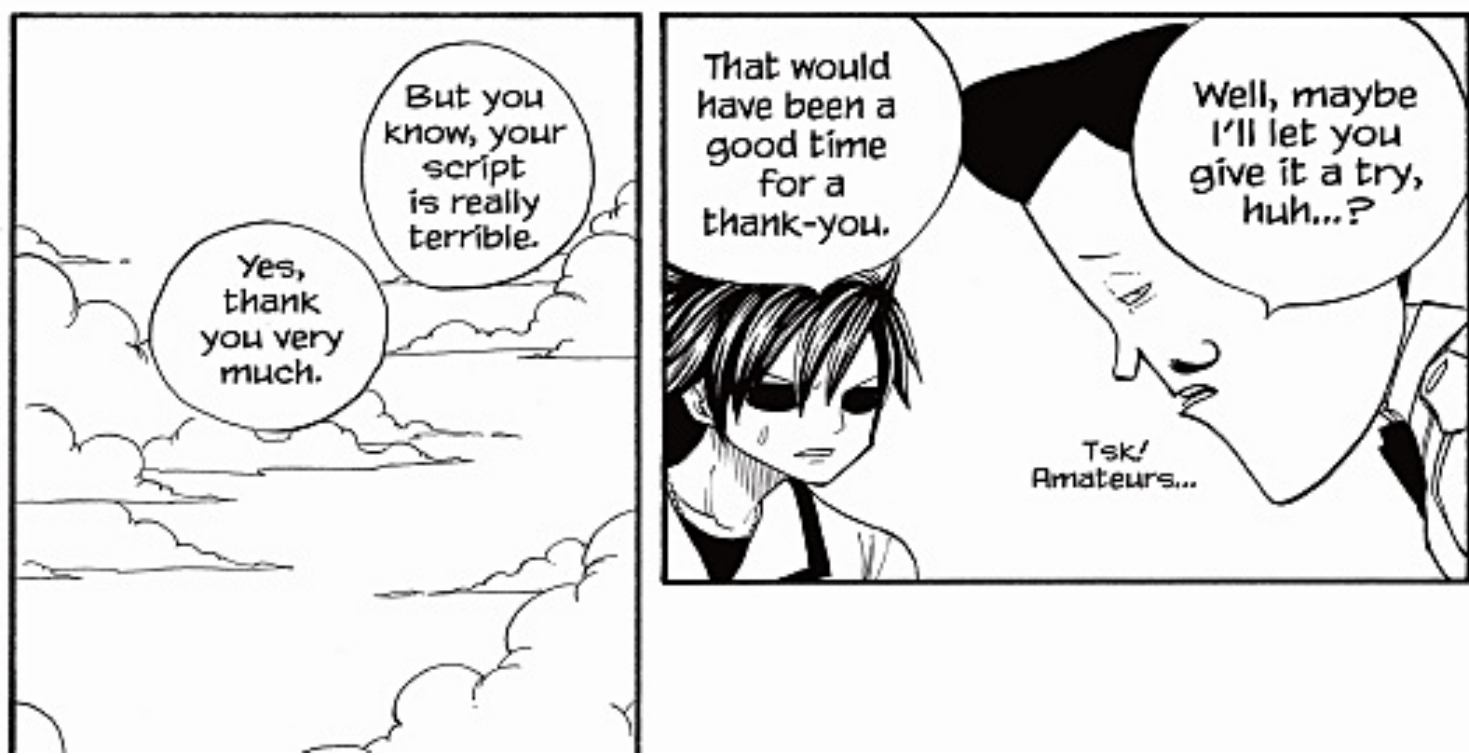
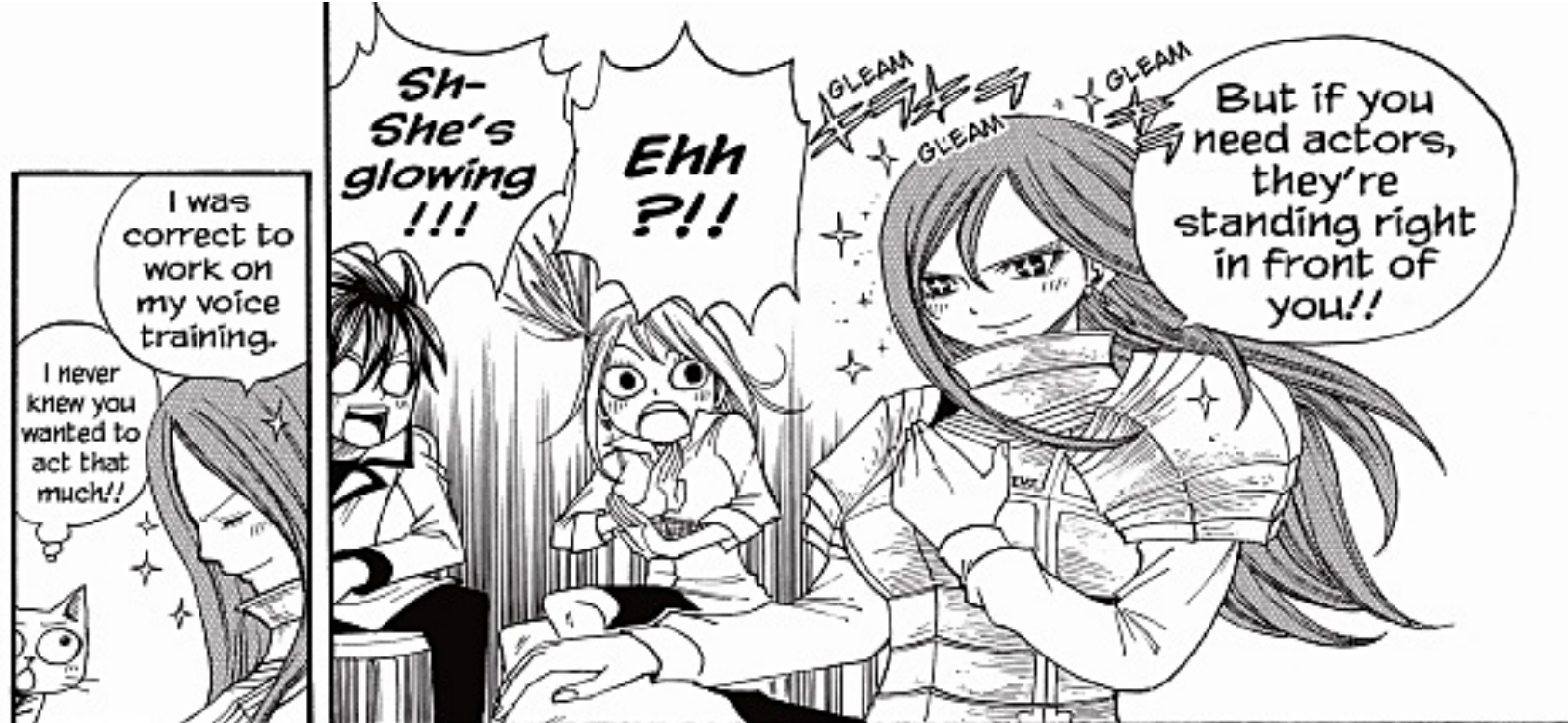
I think you
need to learn
the rules
for thanking
people.

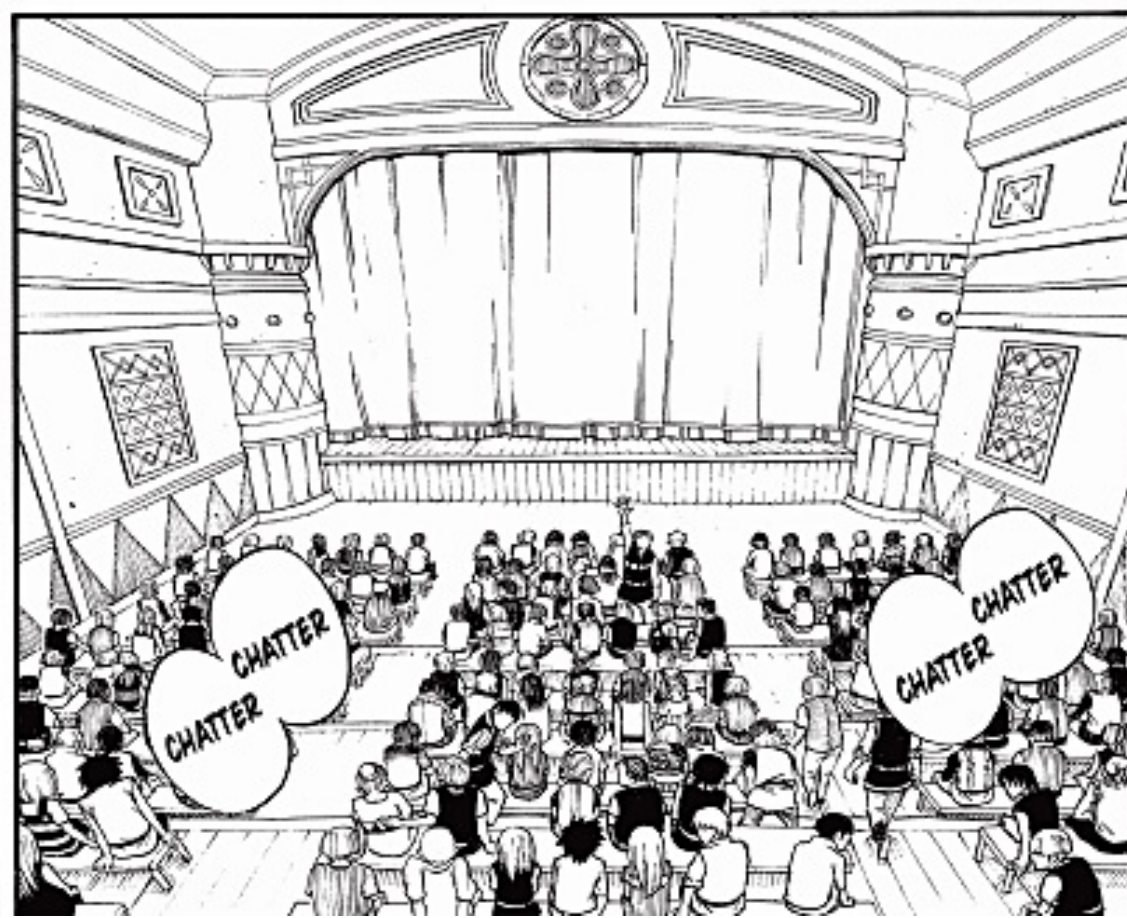
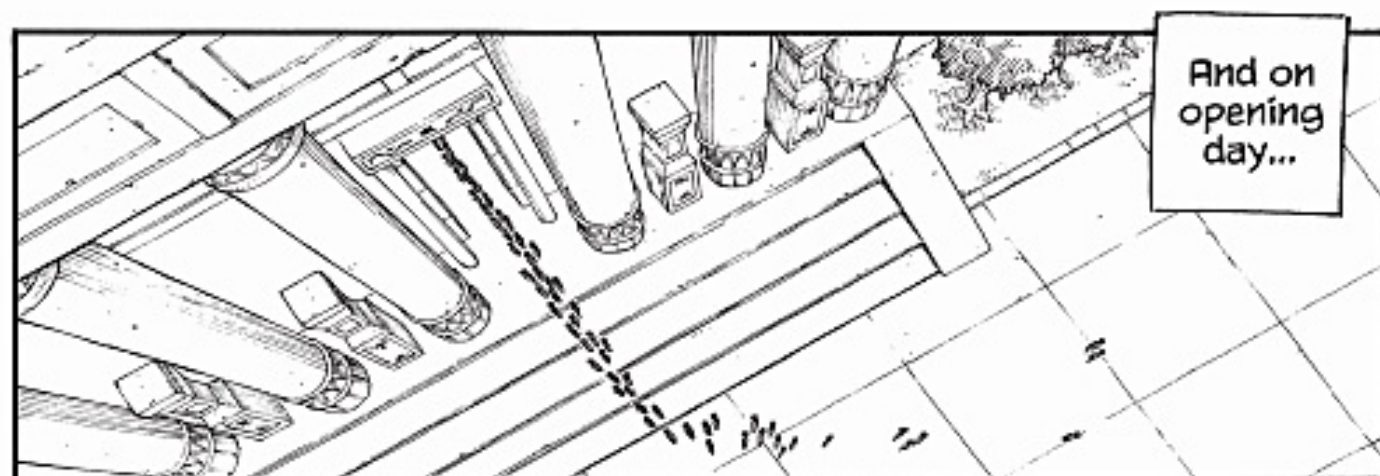
This is the
only way of
life left to
me!!! Thank
you very
much!!!

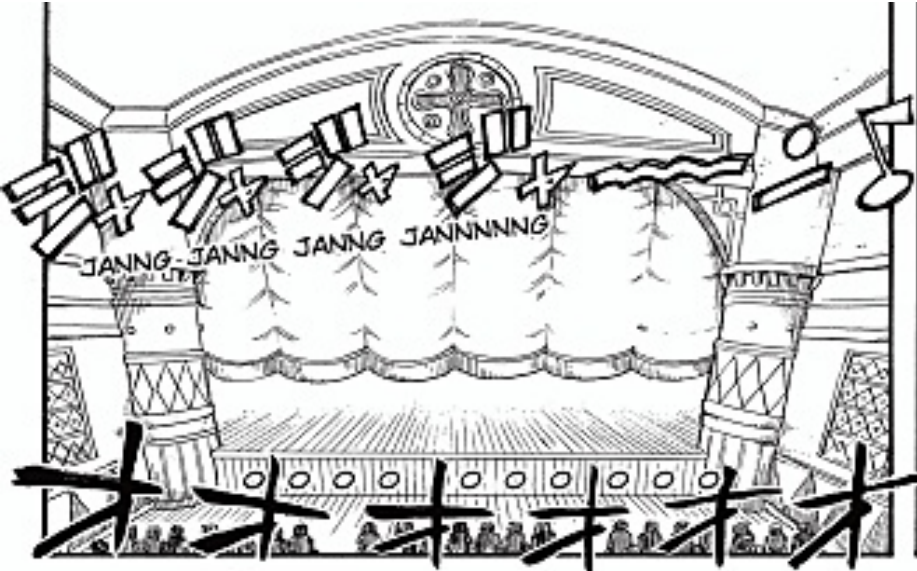


Thirty years
ago, I quit
my job, and
started down
this path.

As a
result of
my chasing
my dream,
my wife
stopped
loving me
and left.







Now all we
have to do is
make this a
success!!

Oooooh! ♪
Lyra's never
played in front
of this many
people before
either!!



...in a land far
to the west,
a prince was
struck with
tender love for a
princess from a
rival kingdom...

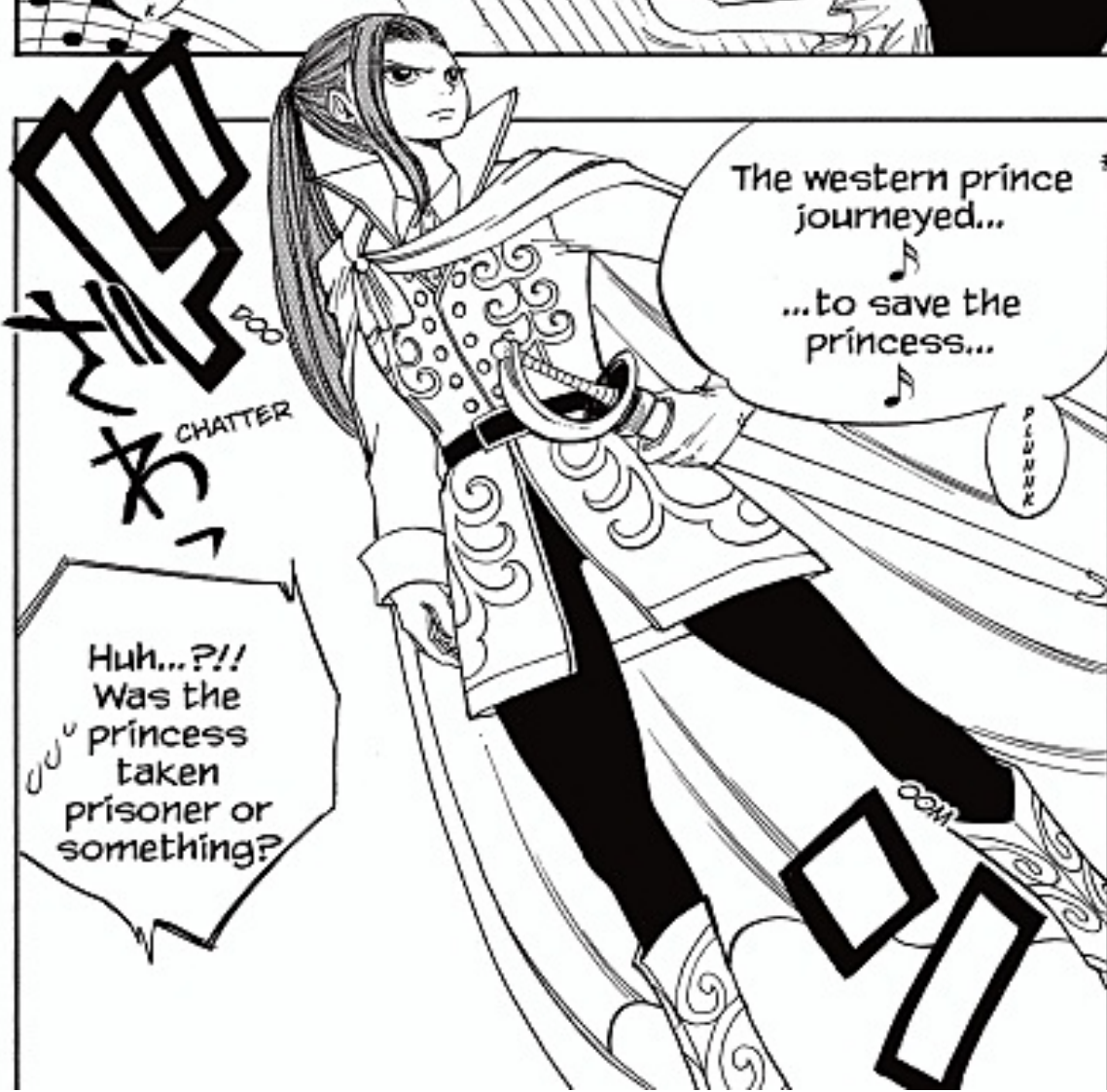
PULUNK

PULUNK

Long, long,
long ago...



PULUNK



The western prince
journeyed...

...to save the
princess...

PULUNK

CHATTER

Huh...?!
Was the
princess
taken
prisoner or
something?



Such a
beautiful
singing
voice!!

It's
making
me feel all
dreamy!!

What is this?!! It's like the prince's teeth are chattering!!!

CHATTER

I-I've c-c-come to res...cue the p-princess!!

M-M-Mmm-M-My name is Frederick!!

SHIVER

SHIVER

SHIVER

I've been captured by the famous Sienhart!

Ahh... Please save me, Frederick-sama!!

Um... You say he's famous, but...

Who?!!

And who the heck are you?!!

What happened to Sienhart?!!

My name is Julios!! If you want the princess, you must challenge me first!!



You will
eat my
sword of
ice!!!

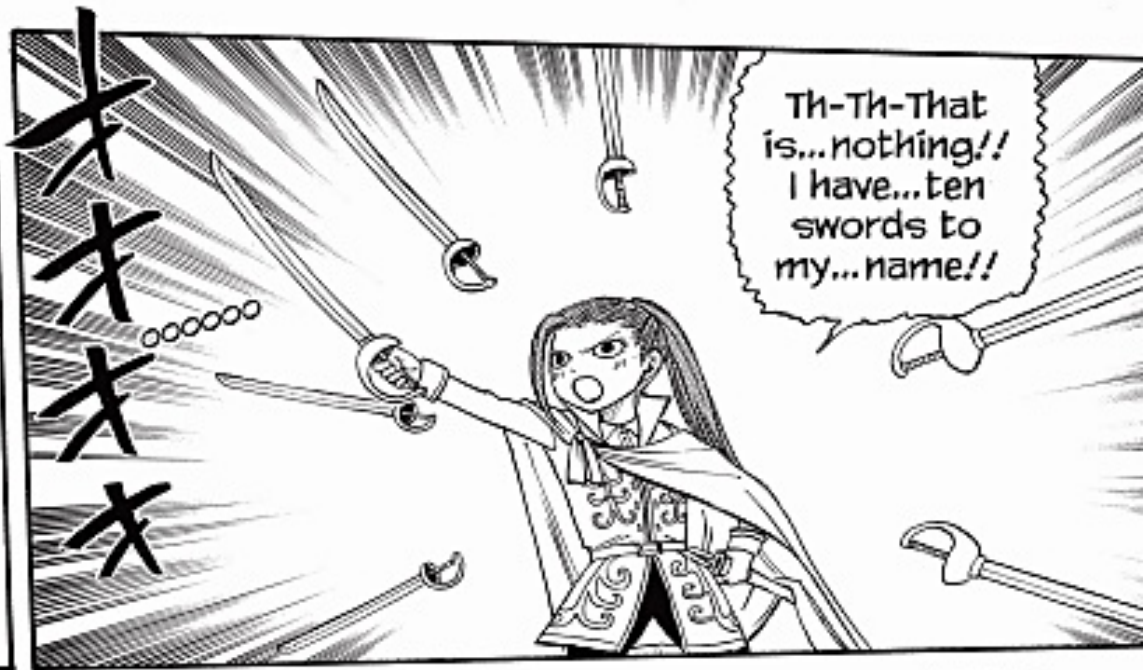
Wow
!!

What
just
happened
?!!



Gwaah
!!!

I don't
know
what
happened,
but he's
kind of
weak,
huh?



Th-Th-That
is...nothing!!
I have...ten
swords to
my...name!!

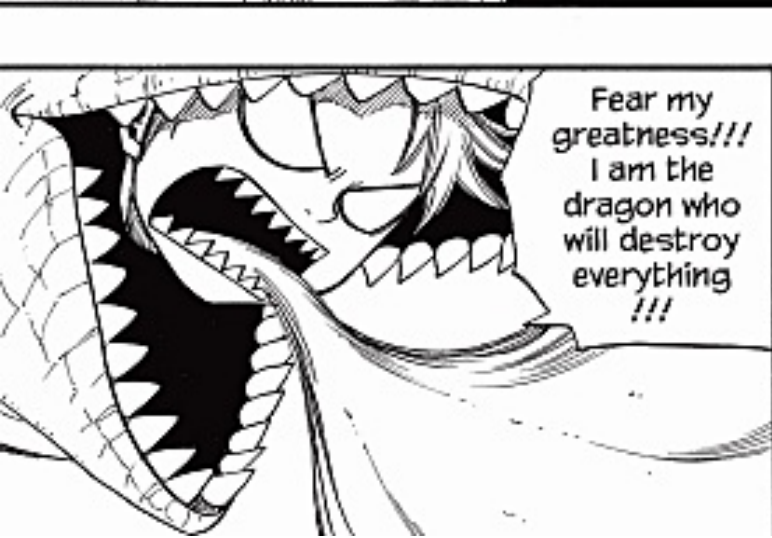
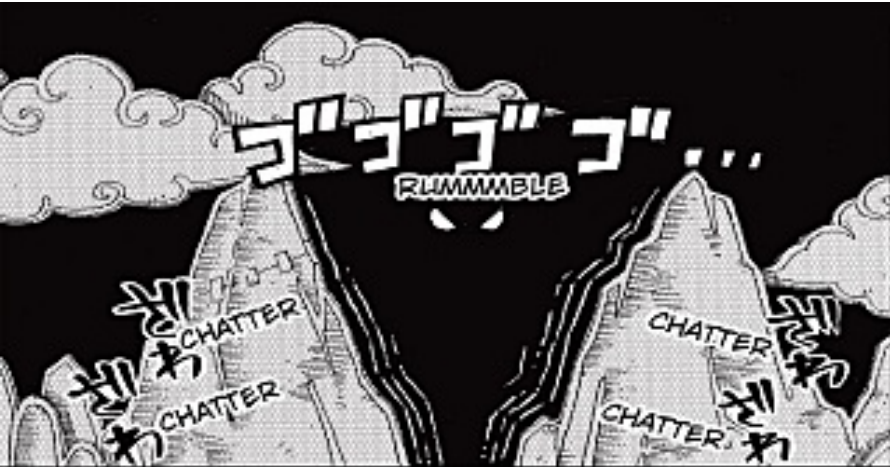


Don't
you think
that's
rushing
things
a bit,
Frederick
?!!!

P-Princess
Y-Yanderica...
we must...
make lots
of...children!!



Frederick-
sama, how
can I ever
thank
you?!



**But you're
the one
who called
the darned
thing!!!!
What kind
of plot
twist is
that?!!!**

Y-Y-Yes...
that is what
I wish too!!

Now that it's
come to this,
we must team
up to defeat
it!!!

**And
the
guys
just
run
away
?!!!**

Th-Thanks,
Princess!!
I owe you
one!!

Right
!!

You two,
run like
your tails
are on
fire!!

Hey,
what do
you think
you're
saying,
Princess
?!!

I will
stop the
dragon!!

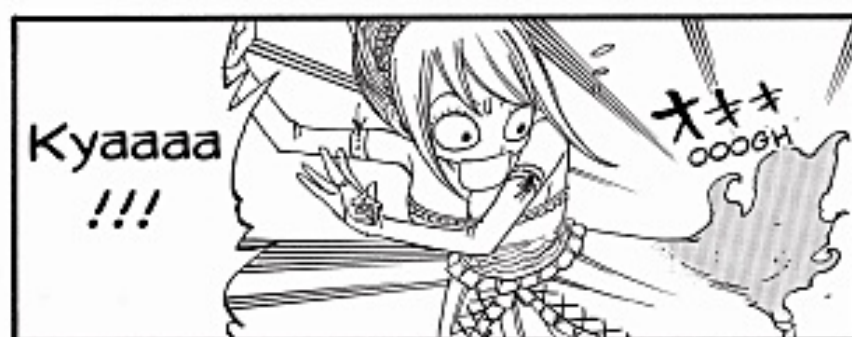
**Gah
?!!**

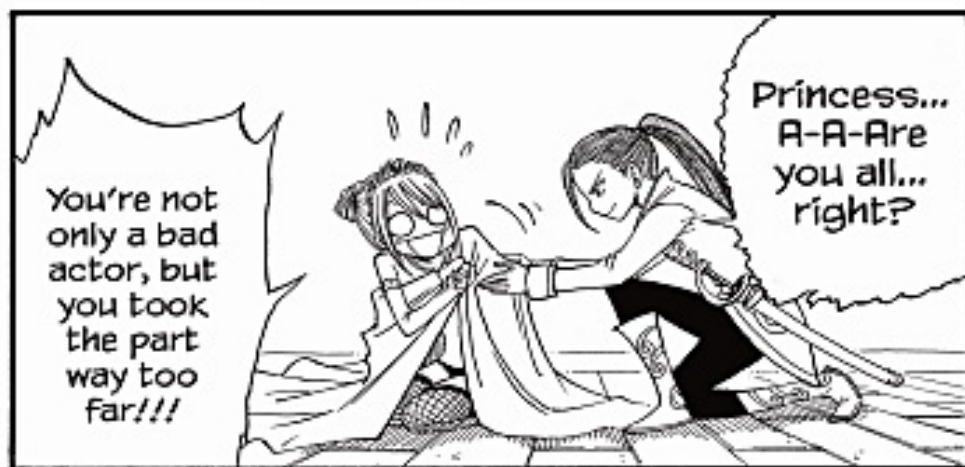
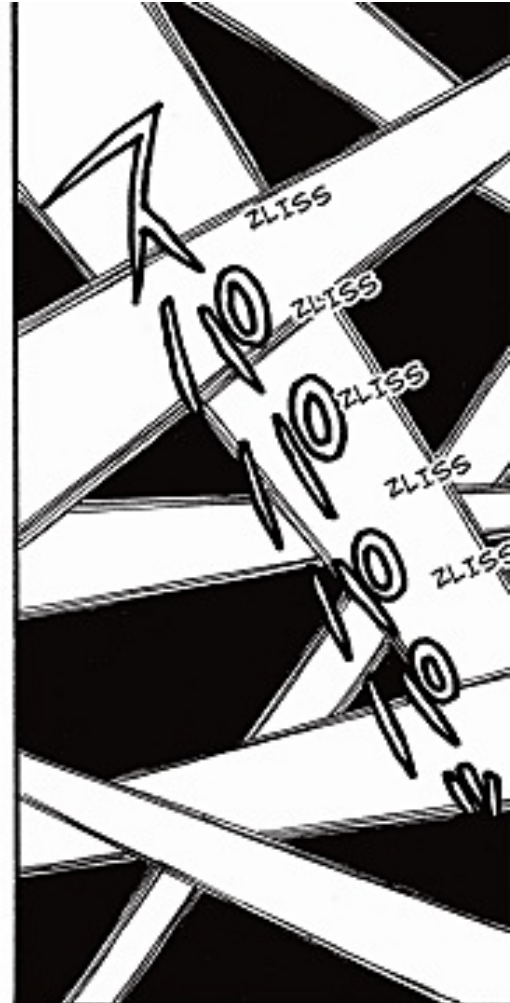
Ah!!

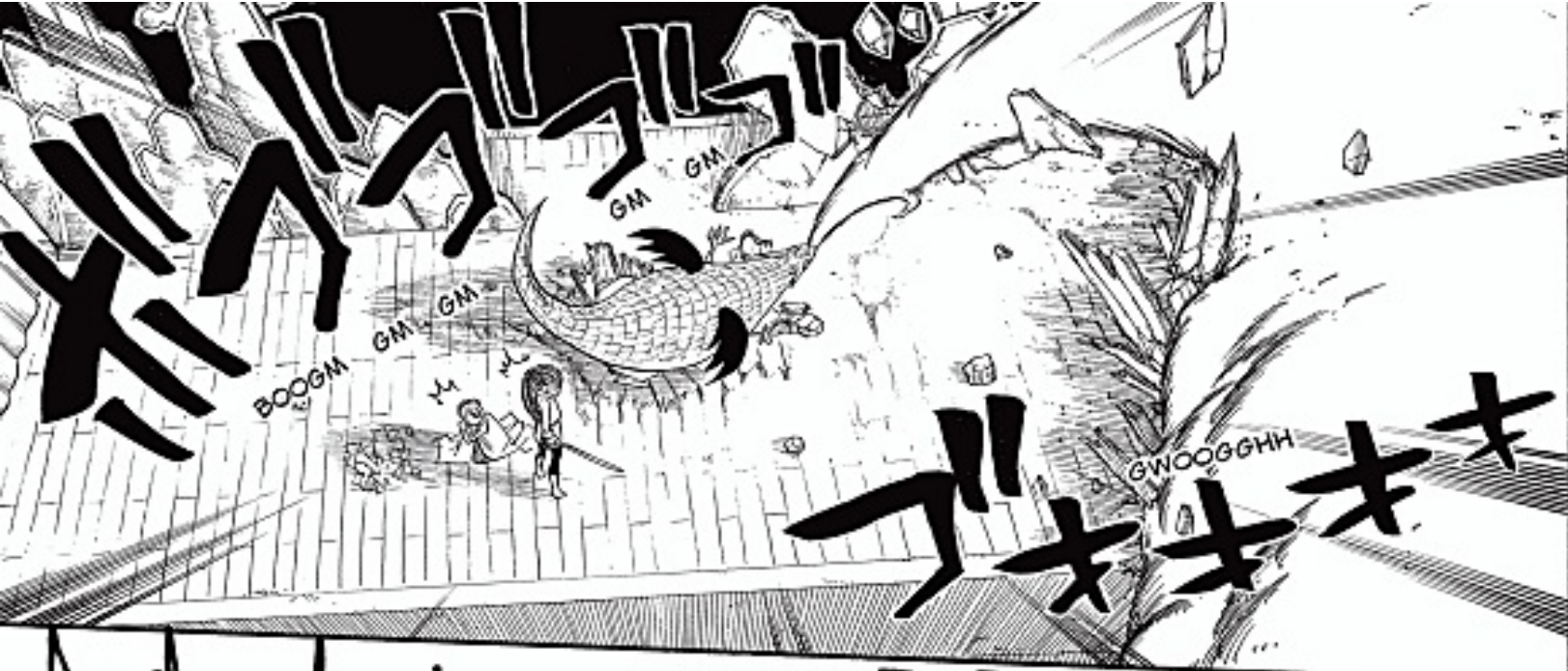
This huge
costume
is...really
heavy...

Hey...Don't
you think this
play has gone
overboard...?

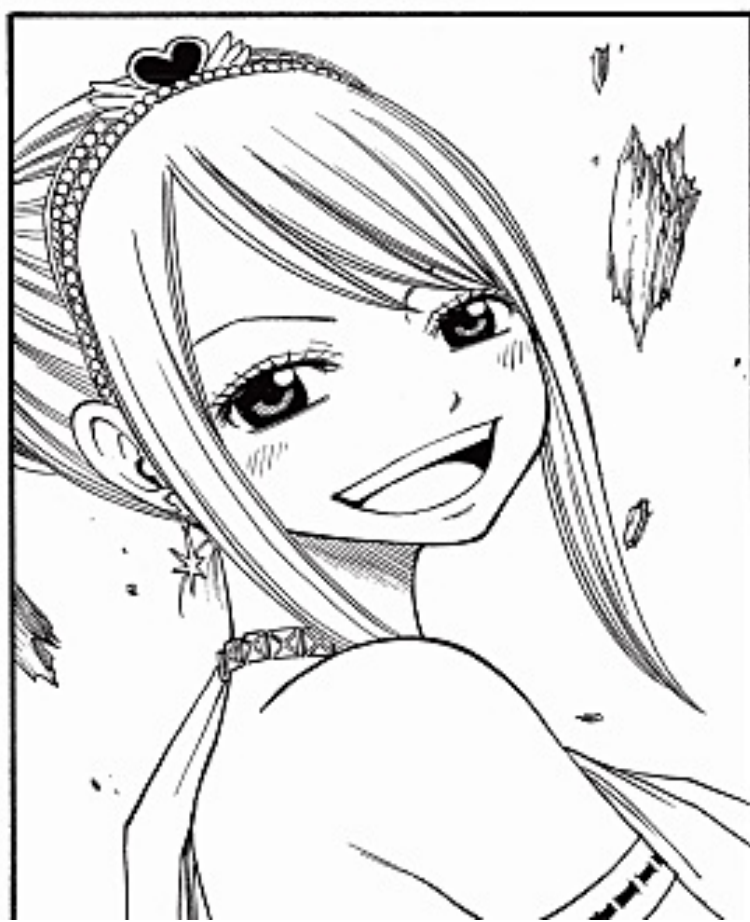
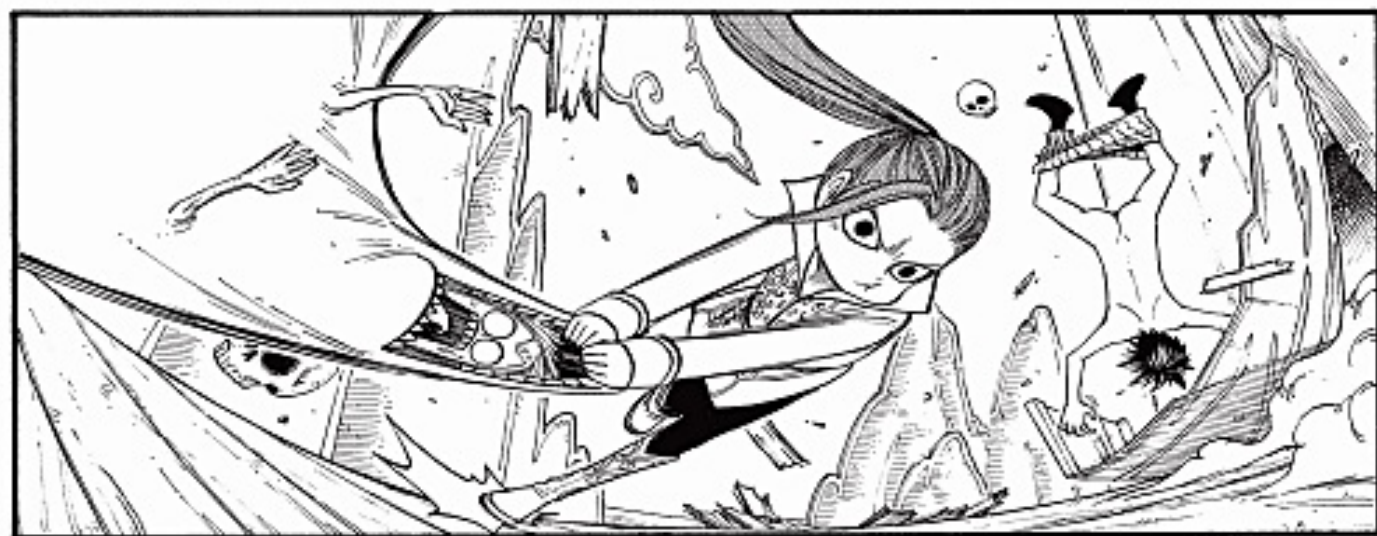
This play
is beyond
the pale...











One
week
later...



SOLD OUT

**Frederick
&
Yandérica**

You guys
are pretty
good for
hammy
actors!!

Gah ha
ha ha!!!
I never
imagined
this would be
such a hit!!

Ahhhhh!!
Ahhhhh!!
Ahhhhh!!

Your
attitude is
a complete
reversal
from when
we met
you...

Three
performances
a day is
overkill!!

Hey!
Will you just
pay us our
reward money
now?!!

Don't just
sit there!!!
We have a
performance
to prepare
for!! The
curtain goes
up again
today!!!

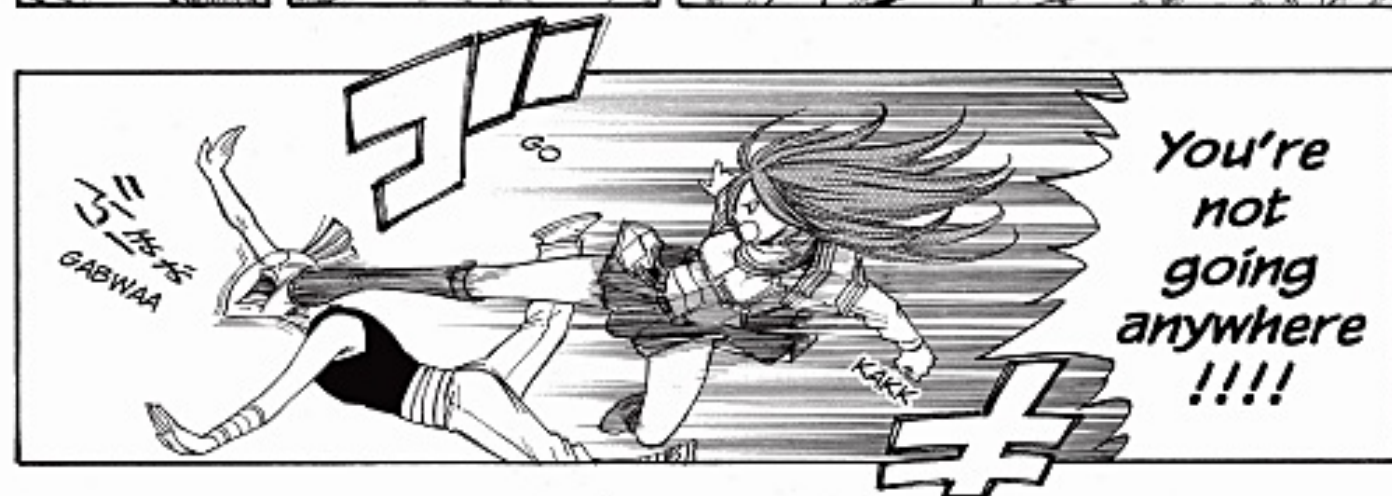
*I want
to go
home!!!*

FAIRY TAIL



Chapter 71: A Night in Impatiens







It isn't yours!!
Don't go taking it without permission!!!

Lucy!!
Look at this jewel!!

You've destroyed plenty for one case!

Yeah!!
I didn't destroy nearly as much as I wanted!!!

We took care of this case faster than I expected.



Over there...



Hm?

What are you talking about?! We have to get started on the next job as soon as we can!!!

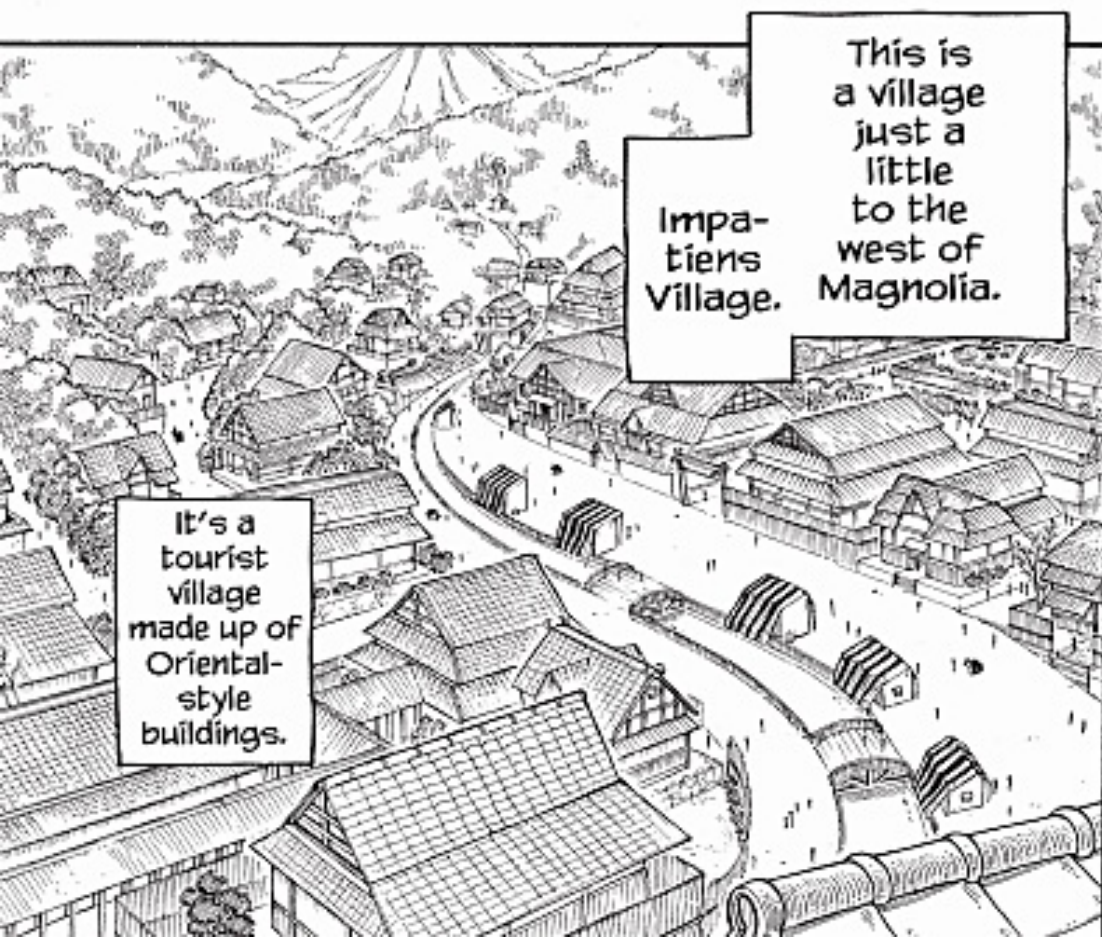


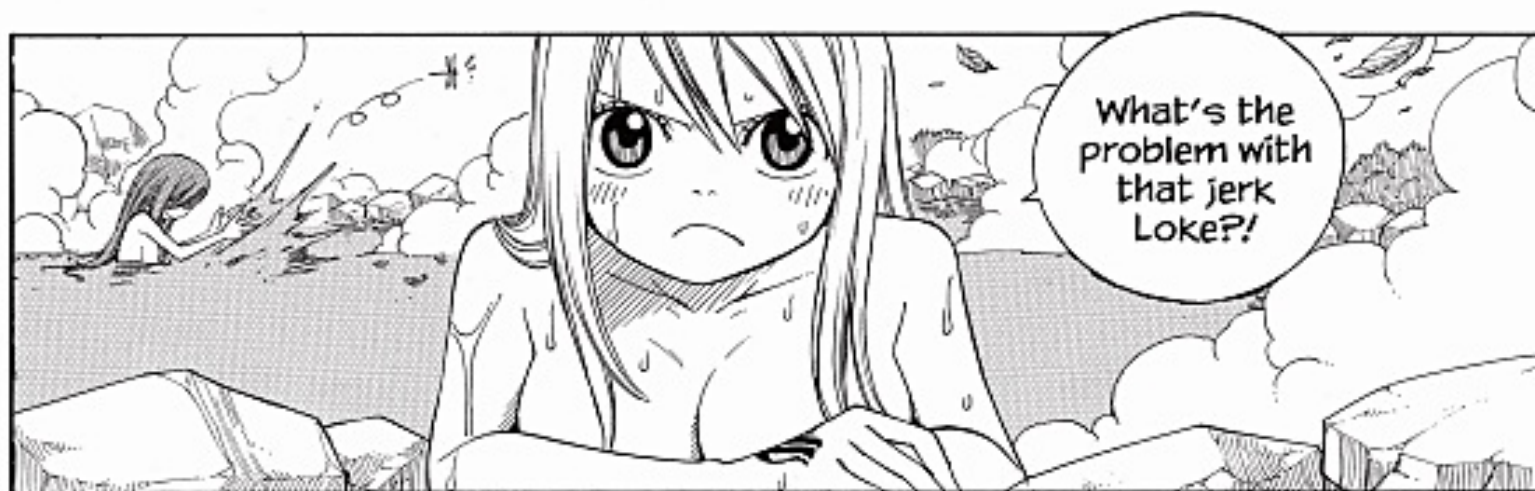
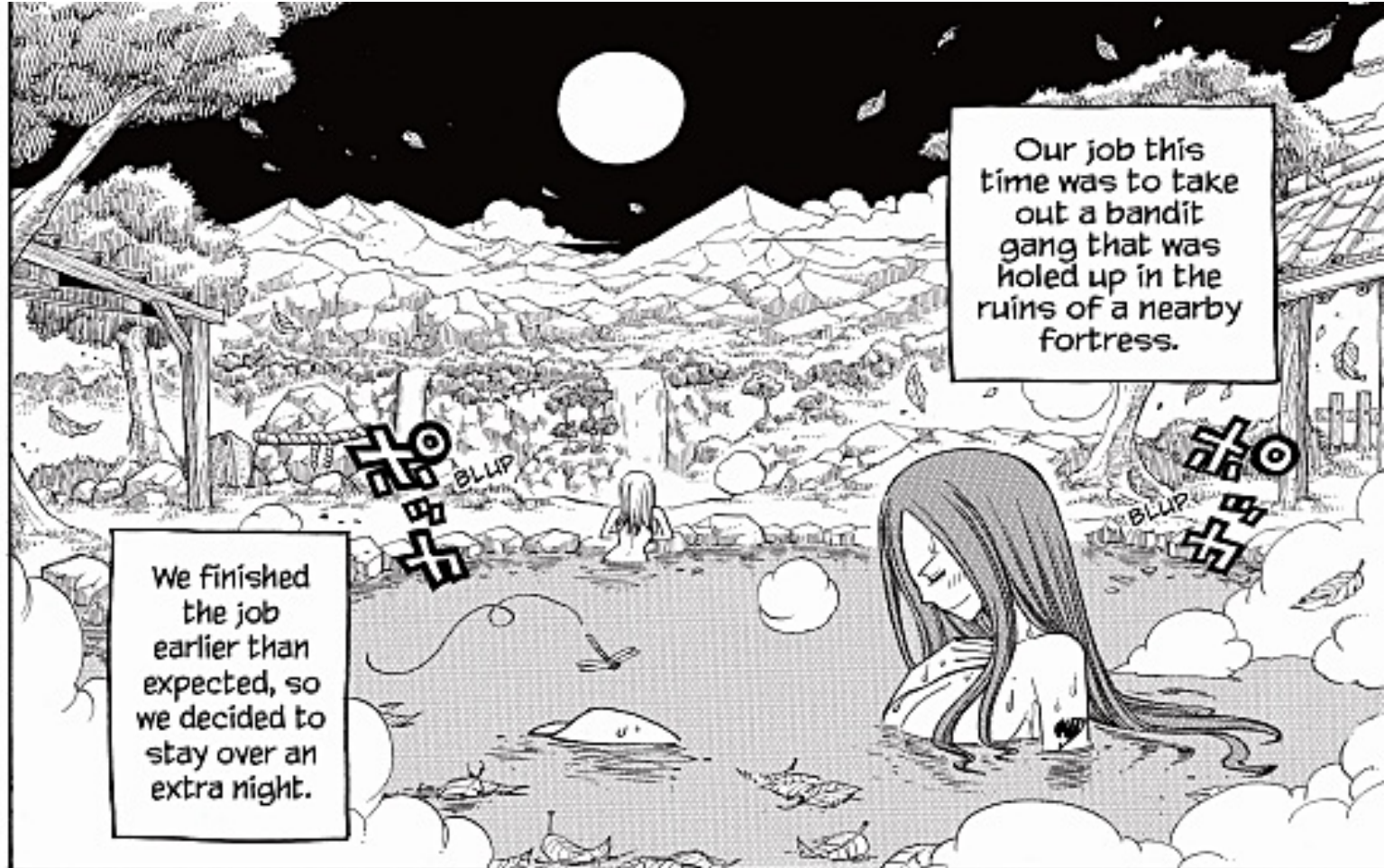
We still have our rooms for one more night. Shall we spend the evening relaxing before heading home?

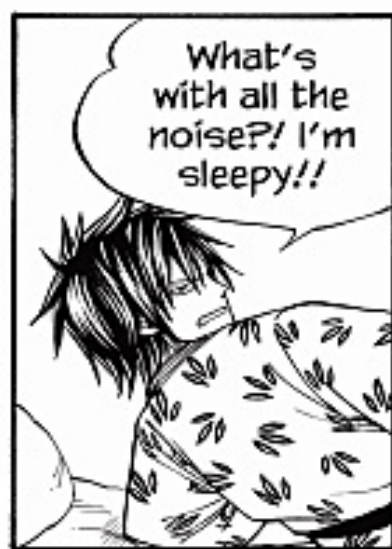


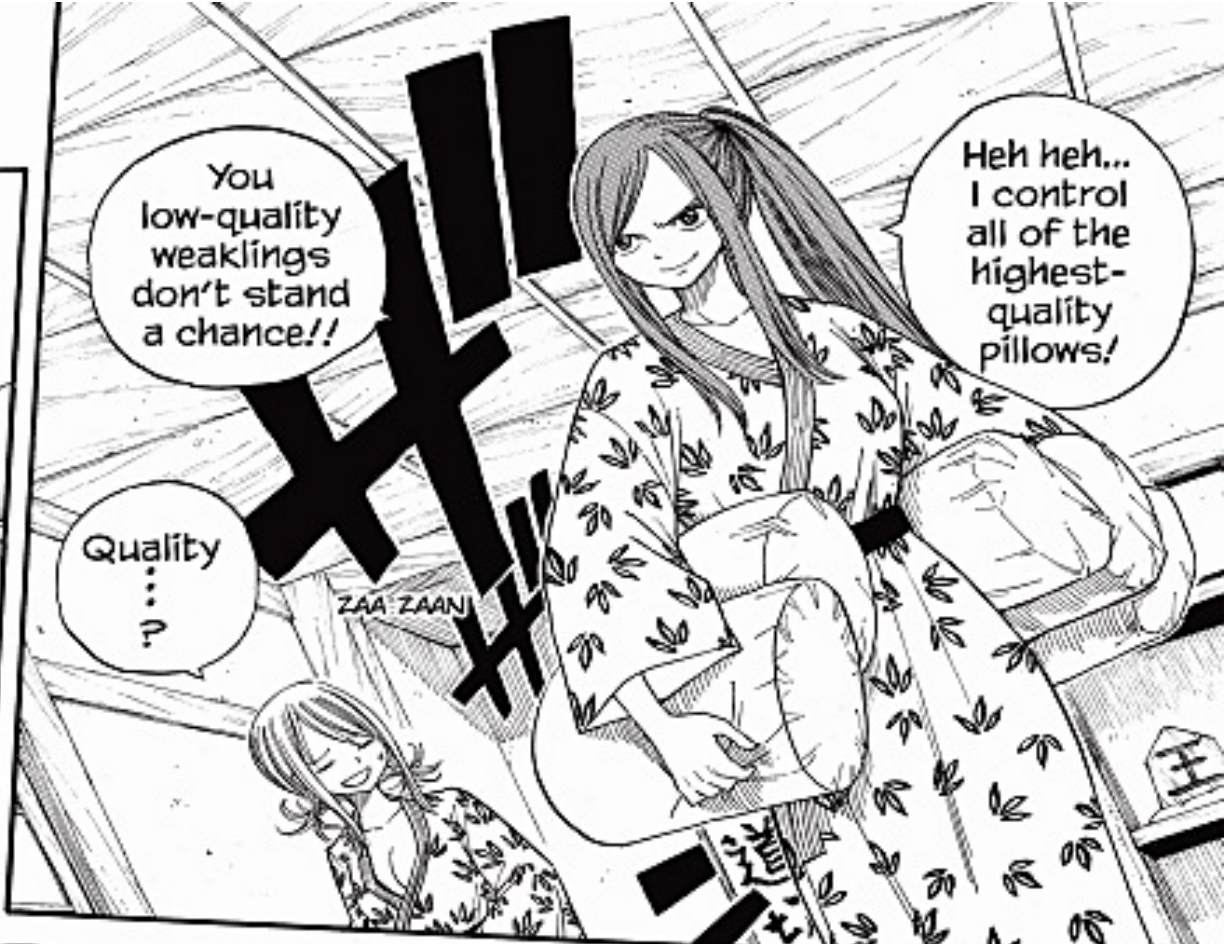
Huh?

Isn't that Loke?











Human?!!
And...And you
can talk?!!

Aye!

Aye
?

Huuh
?!!!

Tsk! I calculated
that I could keep you
fooled for a week
considering how
dense you are, Lucy!

Such
generous
calculations.

Yes, yes. You can
stop the stupid
tricks and come
out now.

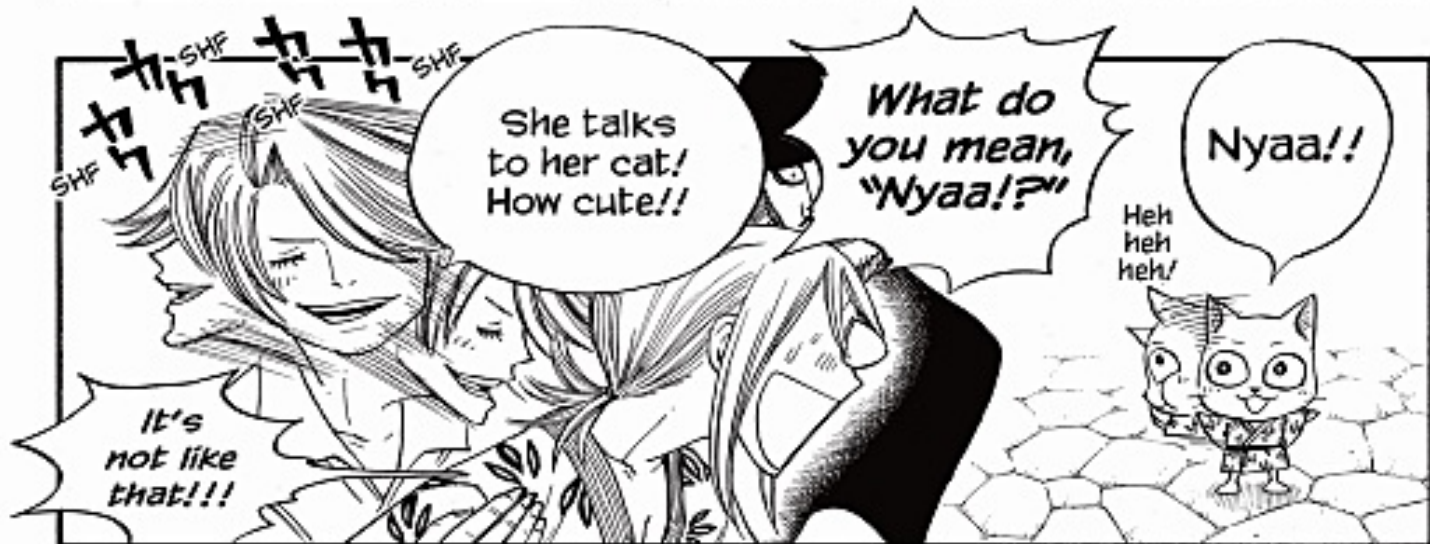
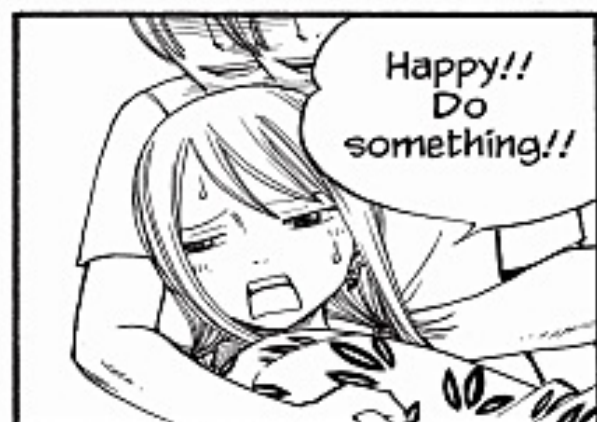
I am the
servant of the
hero who bears
the sacred
stone. Puun.

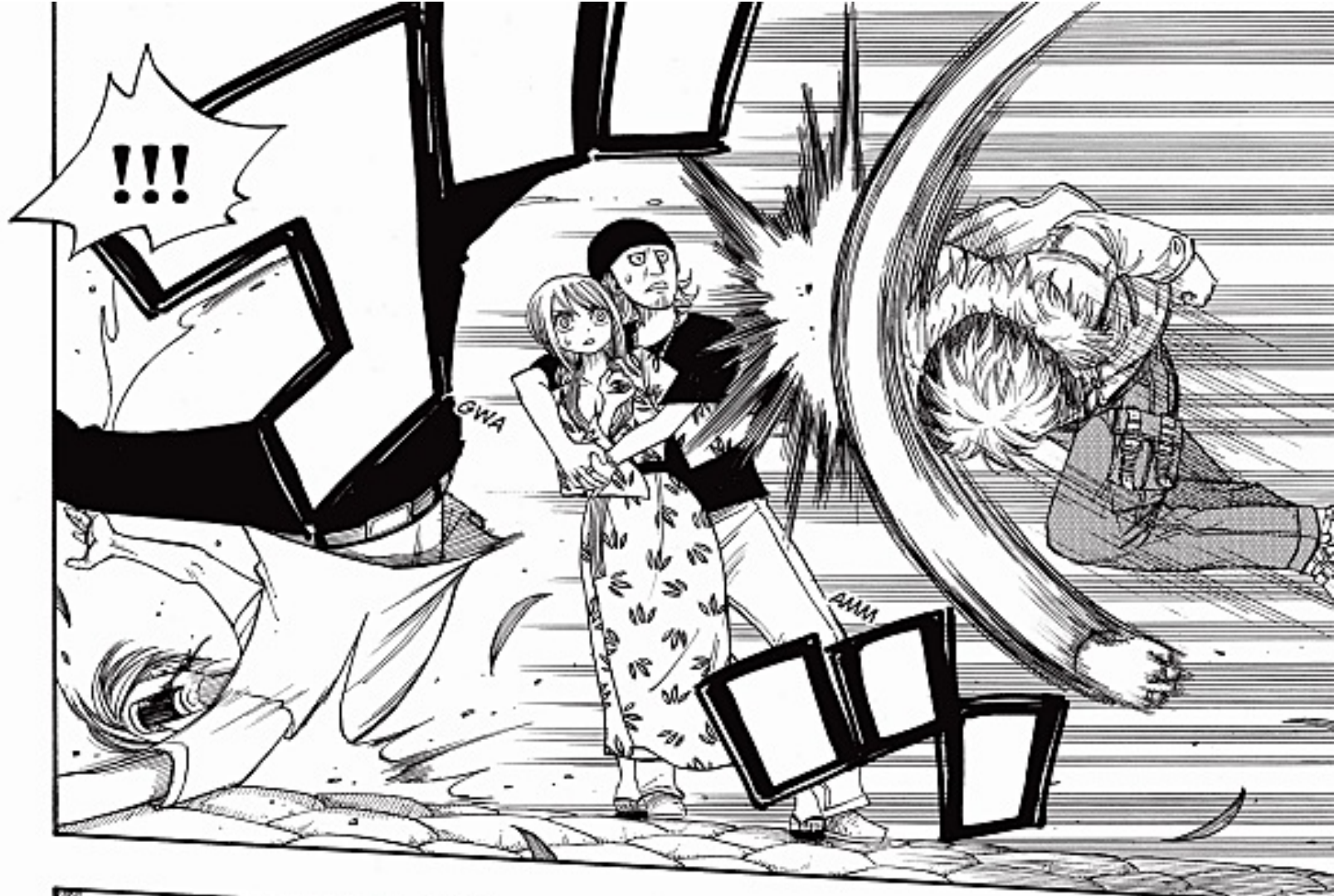
HEH HEH
HEH

Hi,
pretty
girl!

By the way,
where are
you going?

With those
guys having a
pillow fight, I
could get hurt.
So I thought I'd
go for a walk.







You
aren't
hurt, are
you?



These guys
are thug
wizards who
prey on young
women.

I'm in the
middle of a
job trying to
round up the
whole lot of
them.

Really
?



For
what
?!!

I'm
sorry!

Loke
!!!





Um,
listen
...



Well, I have to
take these guys
to the authorities.
So I'll excuse
myself here.

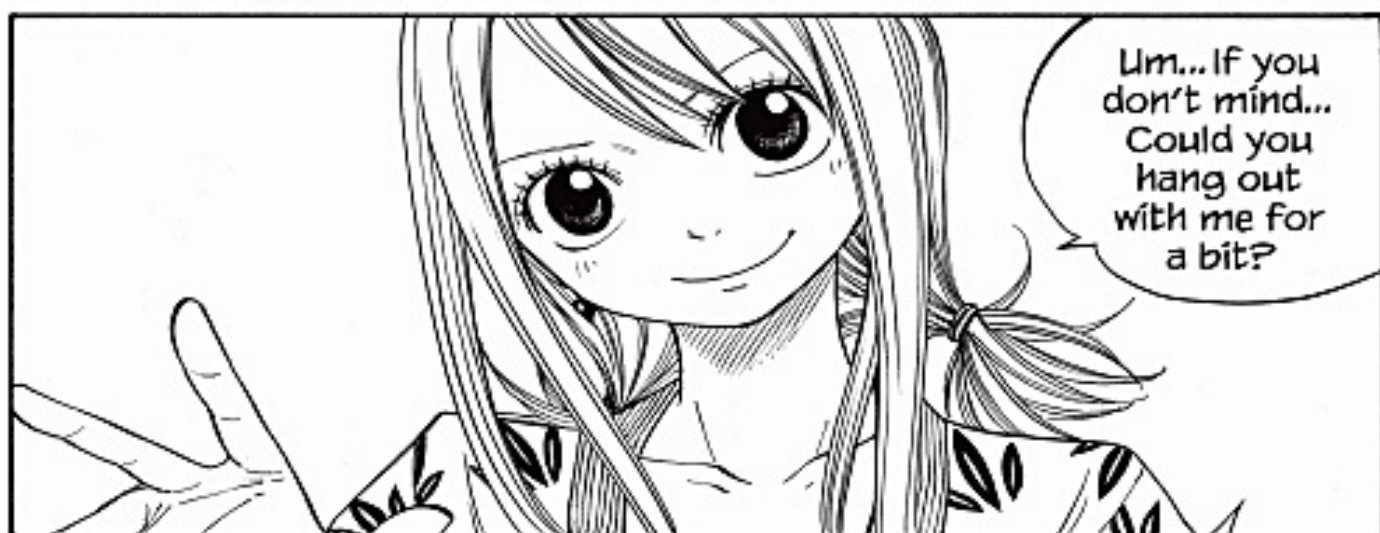


No...
Don't give
it a second
thought.



Thanks
for saving
me.

Also, you
found my
keys, and I
wanted to...



Um... If you
don't mind...
Could you
hang out
with me for
a bit?



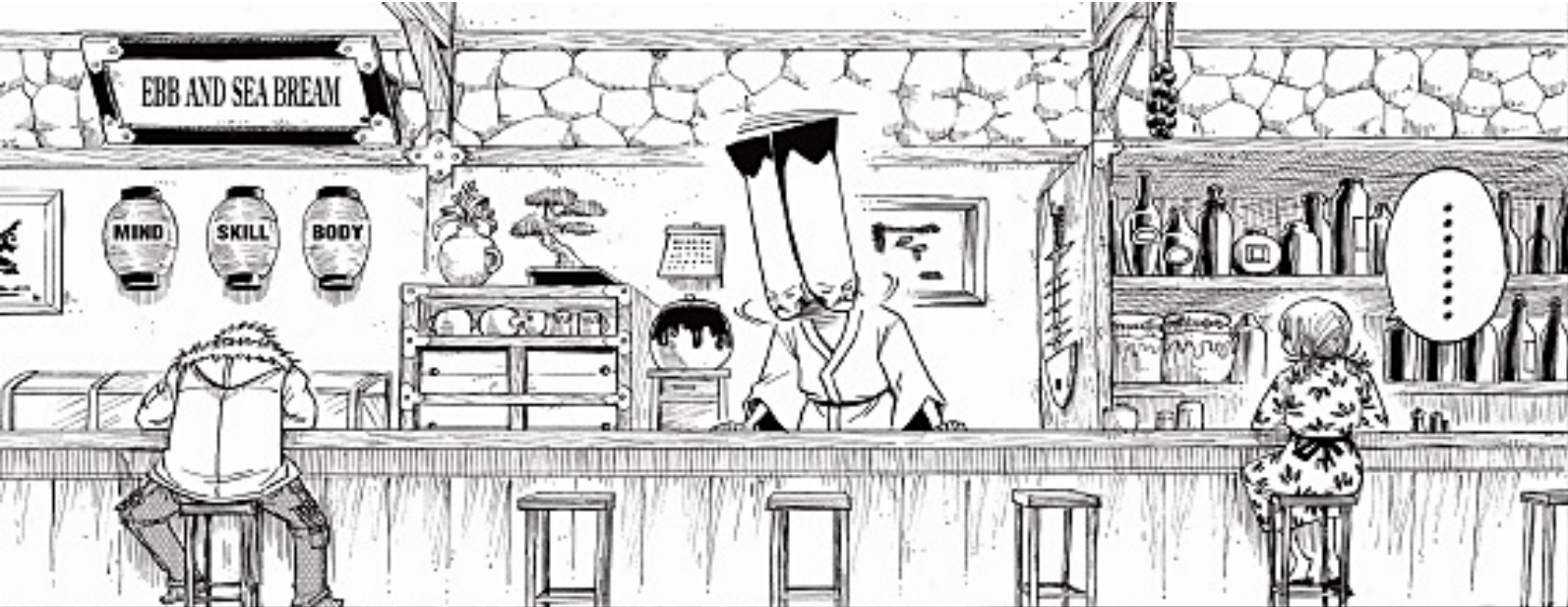
It isn't
like
that!!

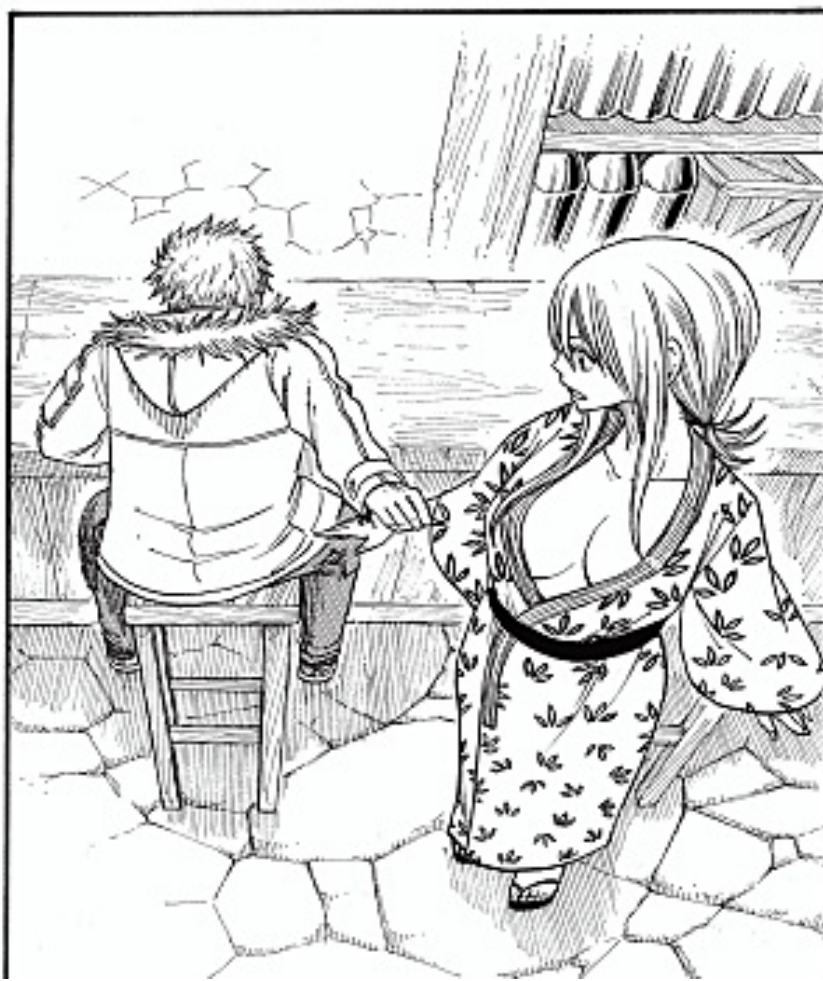
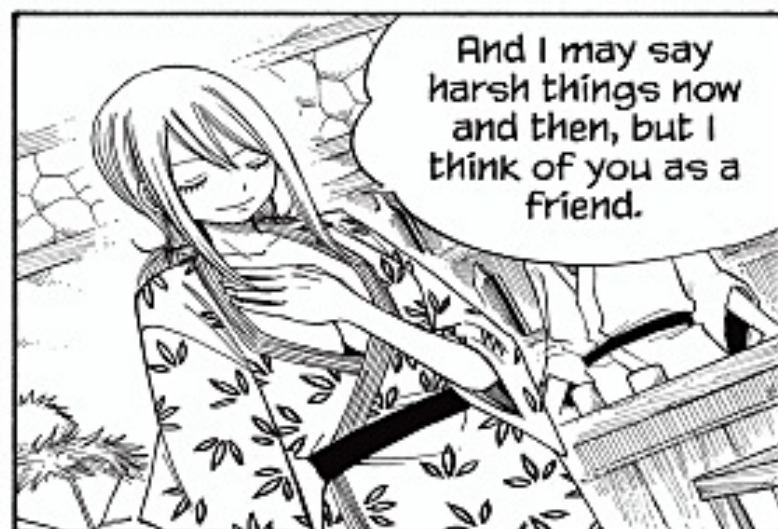
Pu-
puu
!!!

I-I-I-I
knew this
plot twist
would
come!!!



Huh?

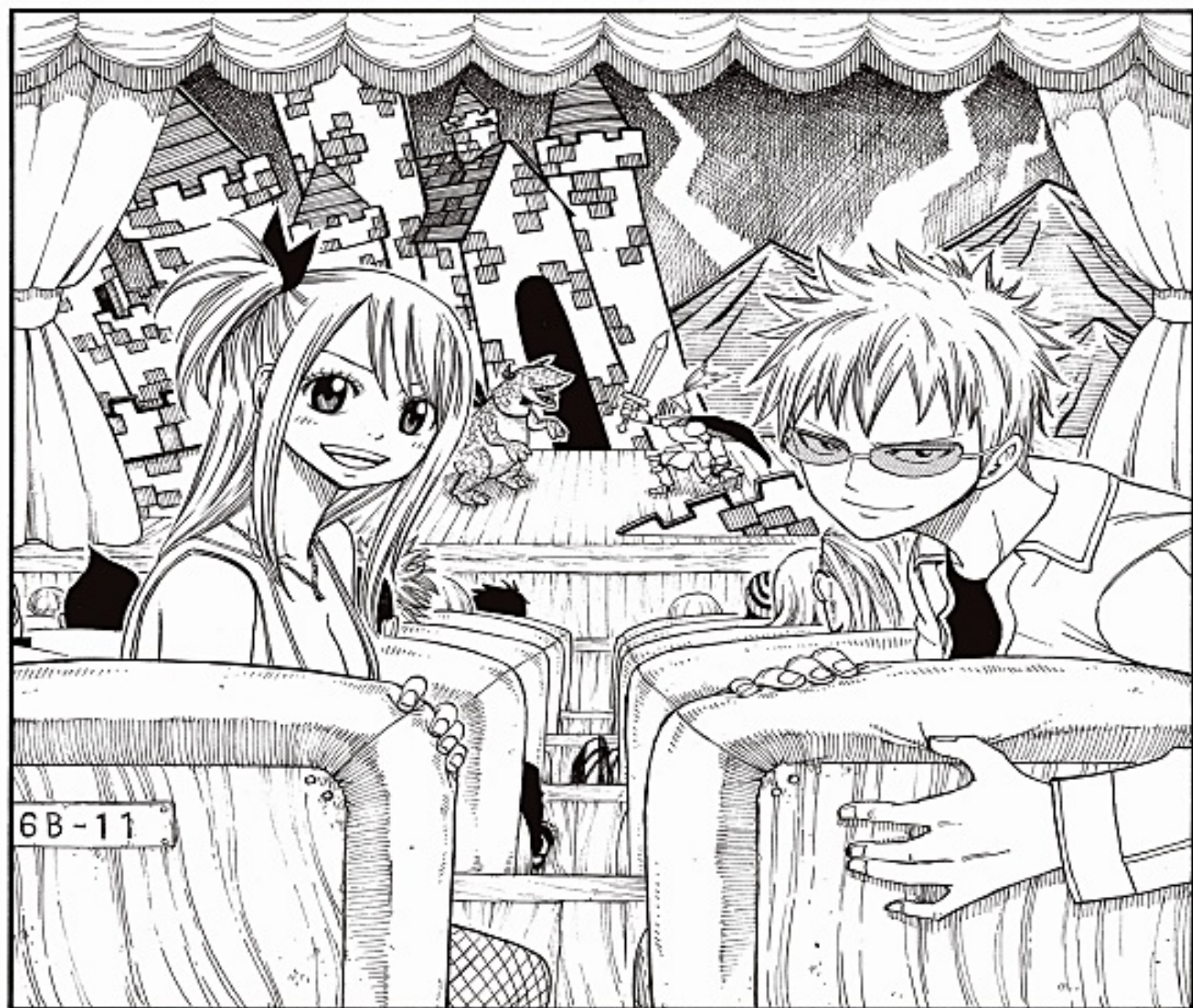




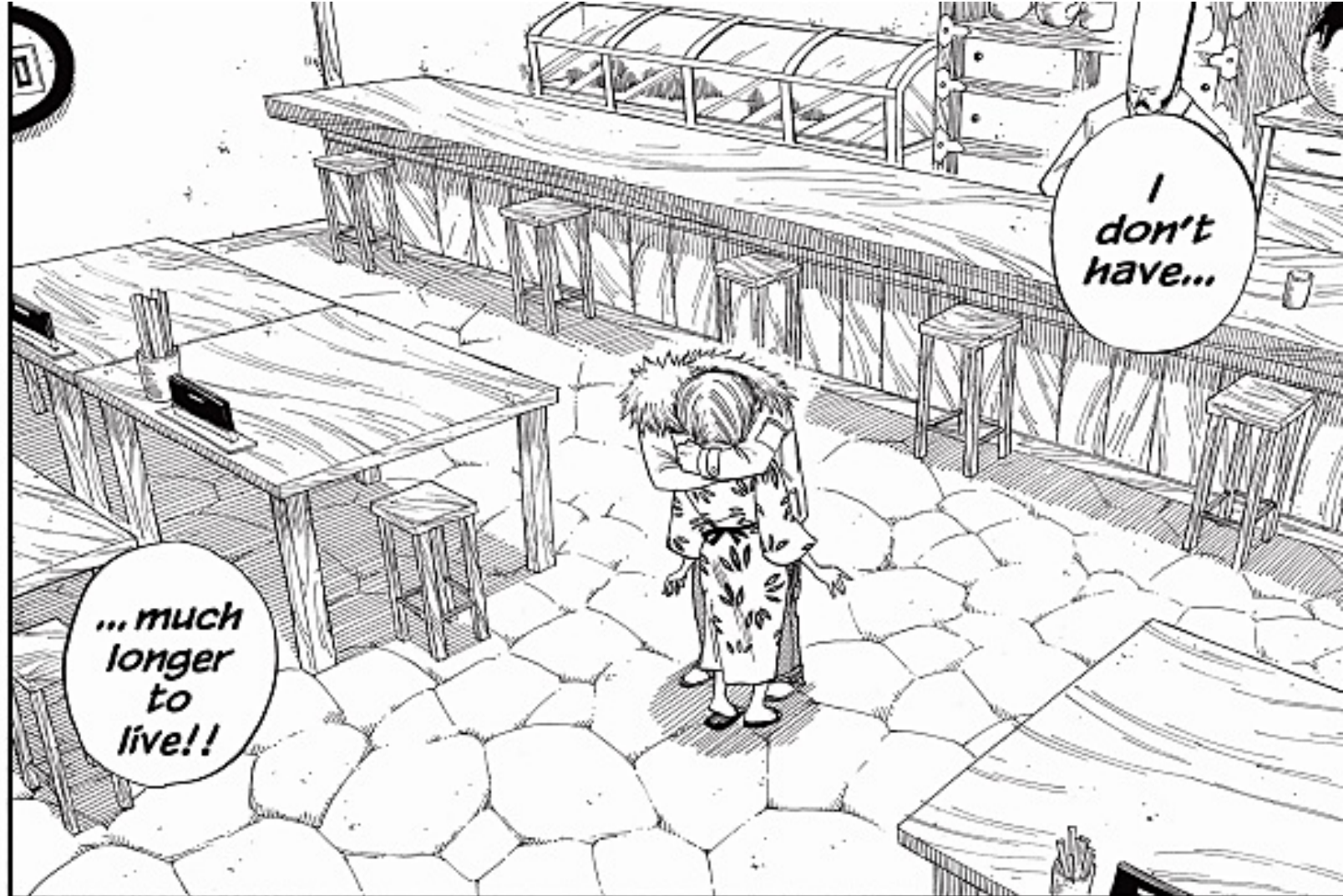


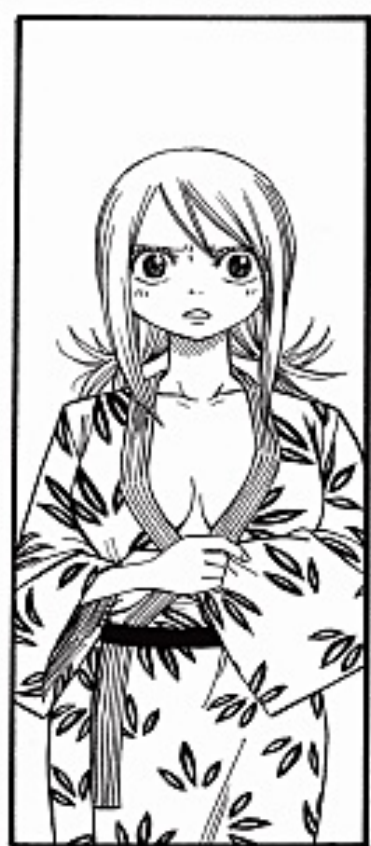
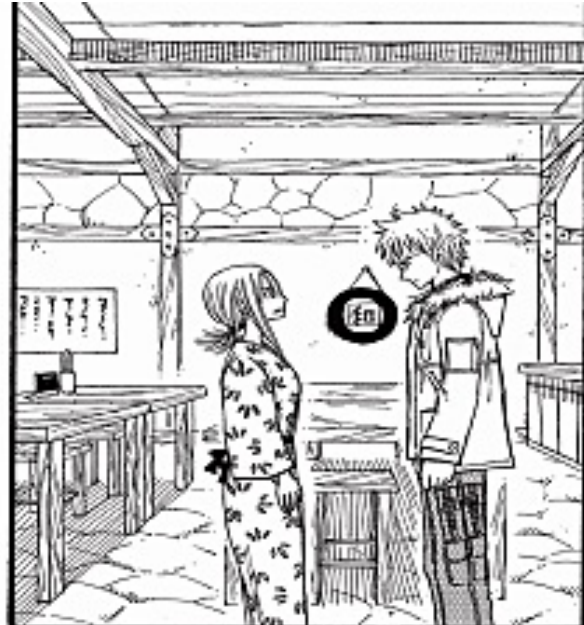
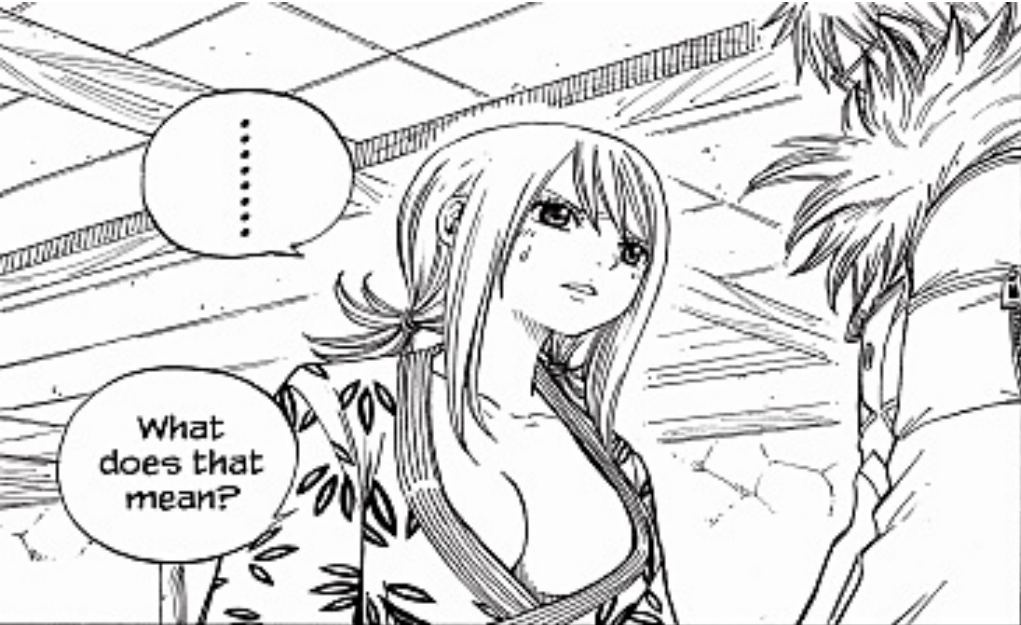


FAIRY TAIL

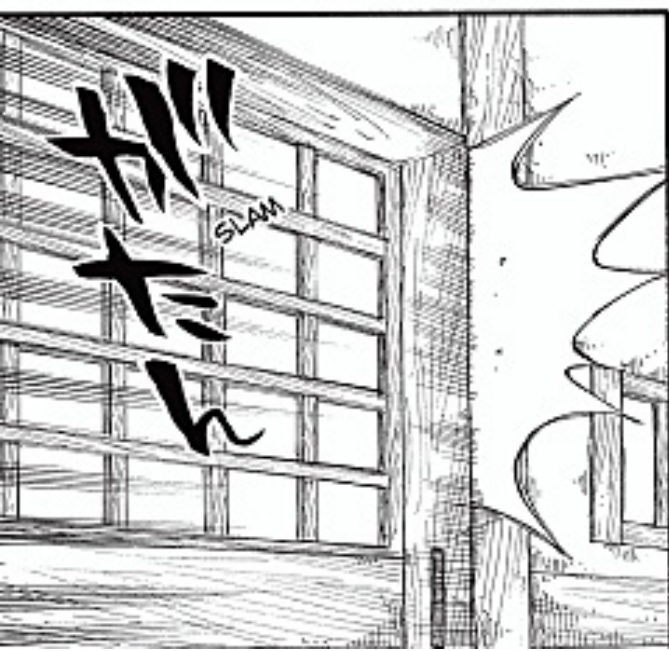
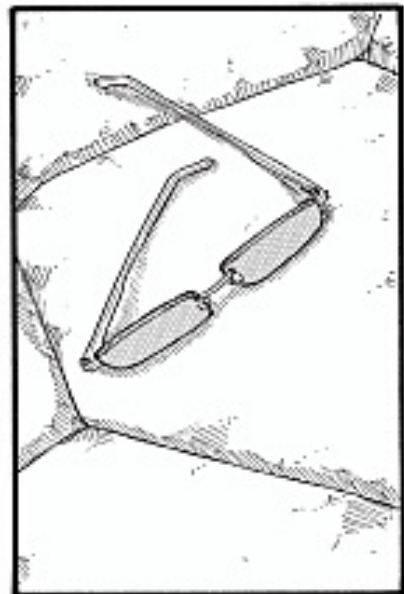


Chapter 72: The Star That Will Never Return to the Sky









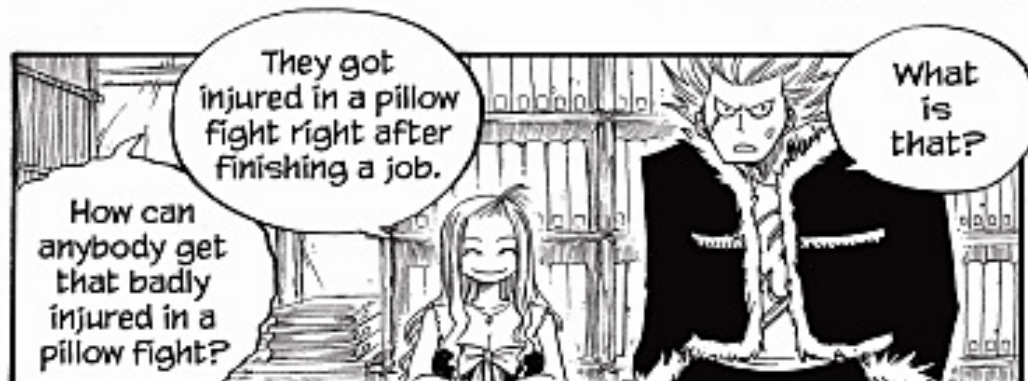
And I
can't
get Lucy
involved
in this!

What
the
heck
am I
doing?

I
can't get
caught
up in
emotions...

I
don't
have...

The
next
day at
Fairy
Tail...





*Cut
the
racket
!*



フム
HUMPH



Lucy's
not
half
bad!

Ohh!! I've
never seen
anybody
besides Erza
stop those
two!!

W-we
deeply
apologize.

No!! Do I look like that shallow a person?!

Are you still mad at my little practical joke?

You think so? I think I'm acting like I always do.

Lucy... You've been in a bad mood for a while.

I can help.

Sorry... It's just that I've had a lot to think over.

No... Thank you anyway.

Loke!! Where are you?!!

I could ask you the same thing!!

Who do all of you think you are?!

I think Loke is just awful!

Where's Loke?

Say, is Loke here?

CHATTER

CHATTER

CHATTER

CHATTER

!

He even
did it
with me
!!

**Me
too!!!**

Arrg!! I hate
to say it,
but he did
the same
with me!!!

Last night,
he suddenly
hits me with
a break-up
speech!!

They all
consider
themselves
to be
Loke's girl-
friend.

The
girls of the
town.

What
is
this?

I
doubt
it...

It couldn't
be that
he's found
somebody
else, could
it?!!

J-Just
calm
down...

Why
would he
suddenly
say
something
like
that?!!

**Who is
it?!!
Is it
someone
in this
guild?!!**

Honestly!!!
Don't
involve me in
situations like
this,
Mira-san!!!

She
couldn't be
Loke's other
woman,
could she...?

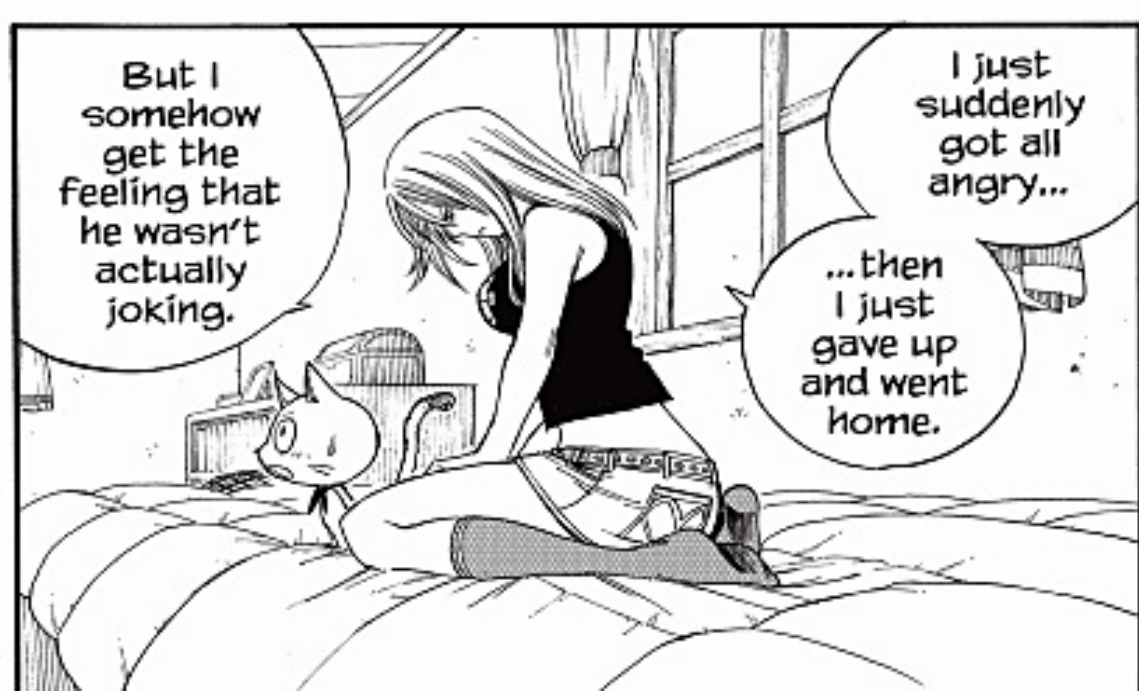
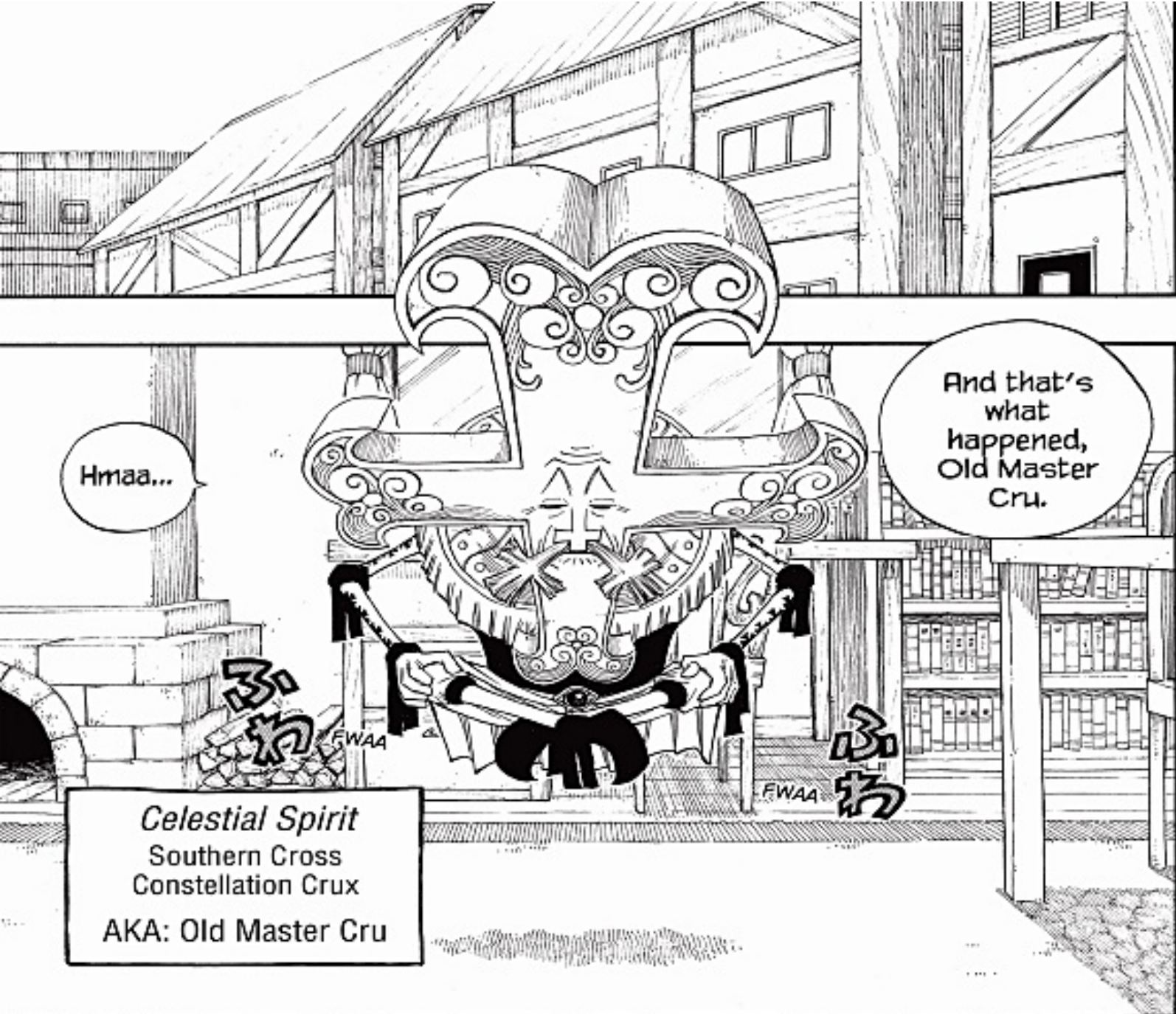
And
that
chest...

She
could be
considered
cute by
some...

Who
is that
woman?!!

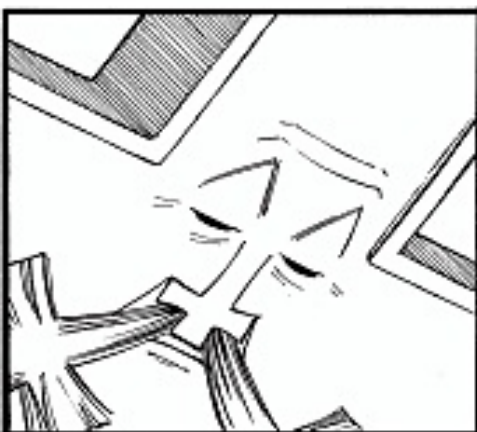
Lucy!!
Save
me!!

Wait
a—



Hmaa
...

I was hoping
that you could help
me find out what was
between Loke and
that celestial spirit
wizard in his past.



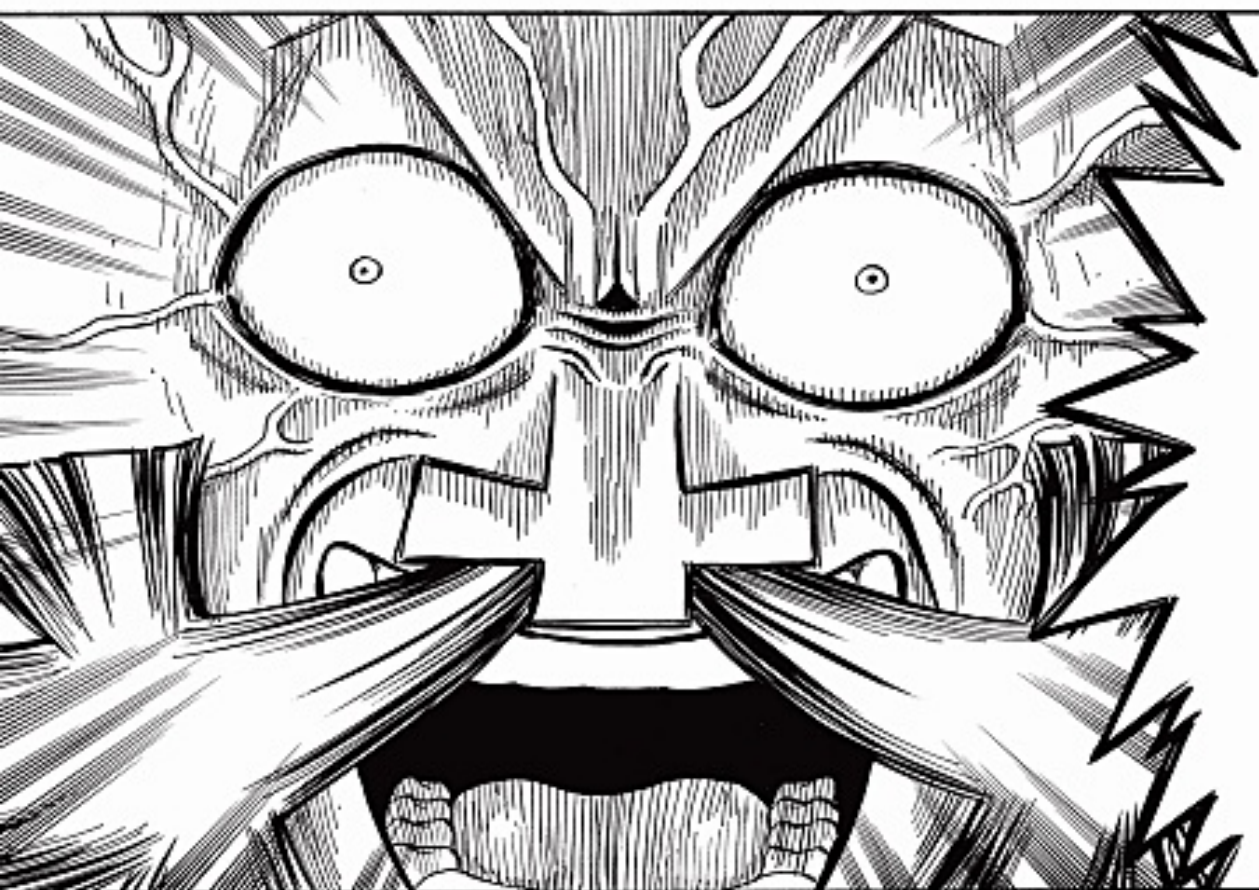
He would know which celestial wizard called which spirit through what gate and at what point in the past.

zzzzzz

zzzzzz

Old Master Cru is a specialist in celestial spirit lore.

He knows all that has ever passed through the gates between the celestial world and the human world.



**D
I
A
A
A
H
H
!!!!**

Personal information is protected even in the celestial world, so I cannot be too specific.

HMAA
...

Cru, have you remembered something?

...went by
the name
of Karen
Lilica.

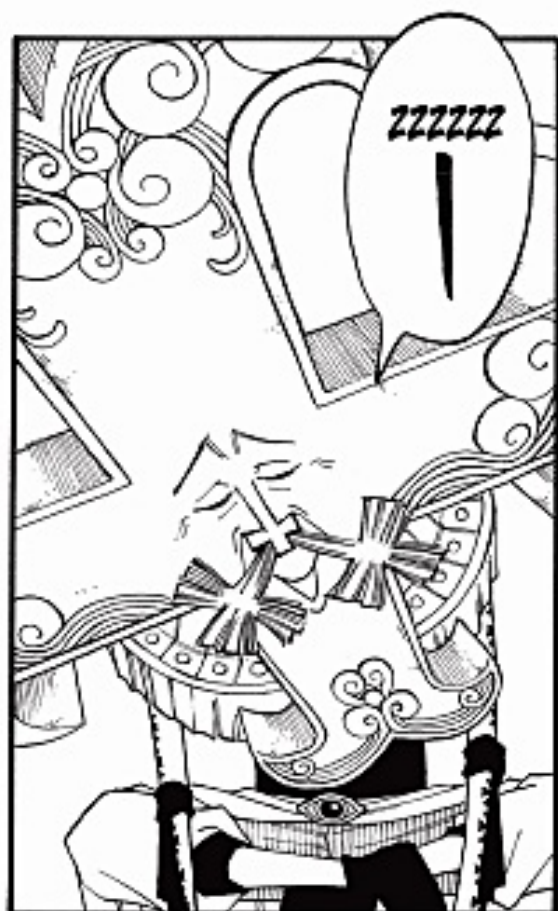
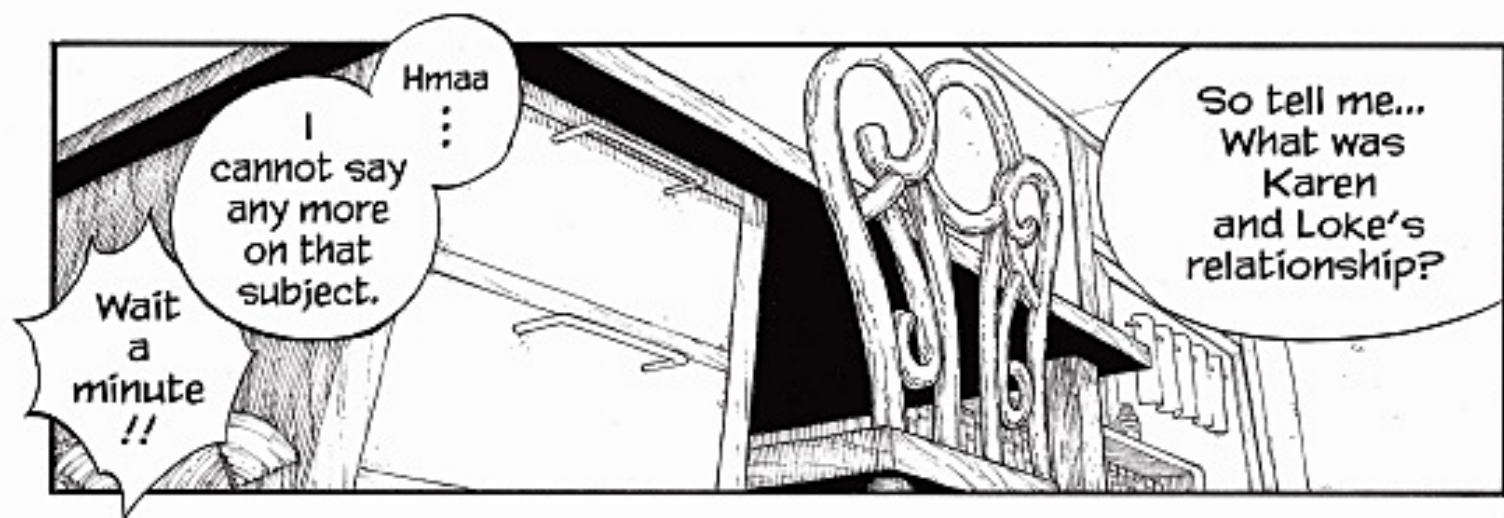
However,
the celestial
wizard
with whom
Loke had a
relationship...

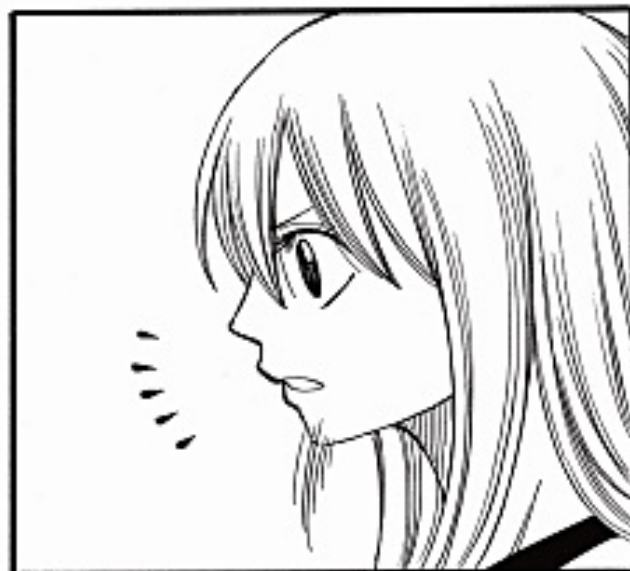
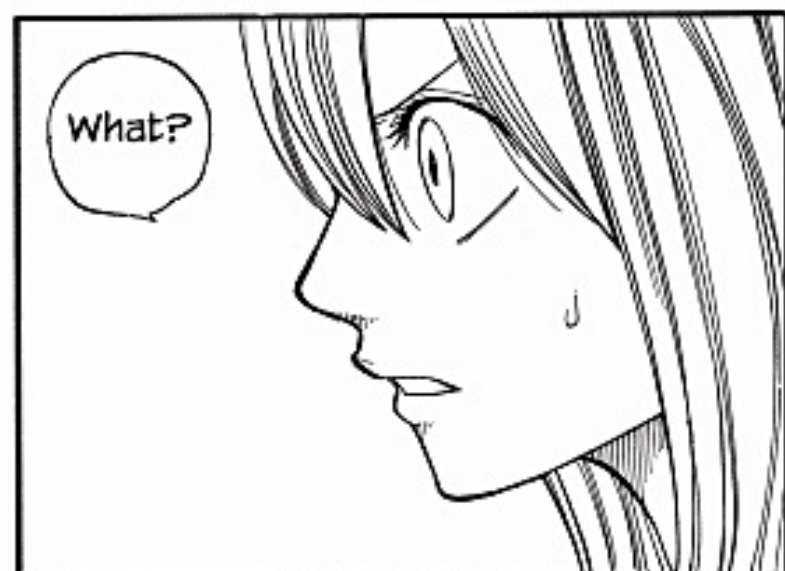
**Karen
Lilica
?!!!**

She was a real
beauty, and even
made the gatefold
of Sorcerer
magazine!!

She's a
really famous
celestial
wizard!!

You know
of her,
Lucy?







What?!



Loke
left
Fairy
Tail
!!!!



I was
thinking that
he's been
acting a
little strange
lately.



I don't
know!!
Everybody's
looking for
him!!!

Wh-
Why?!

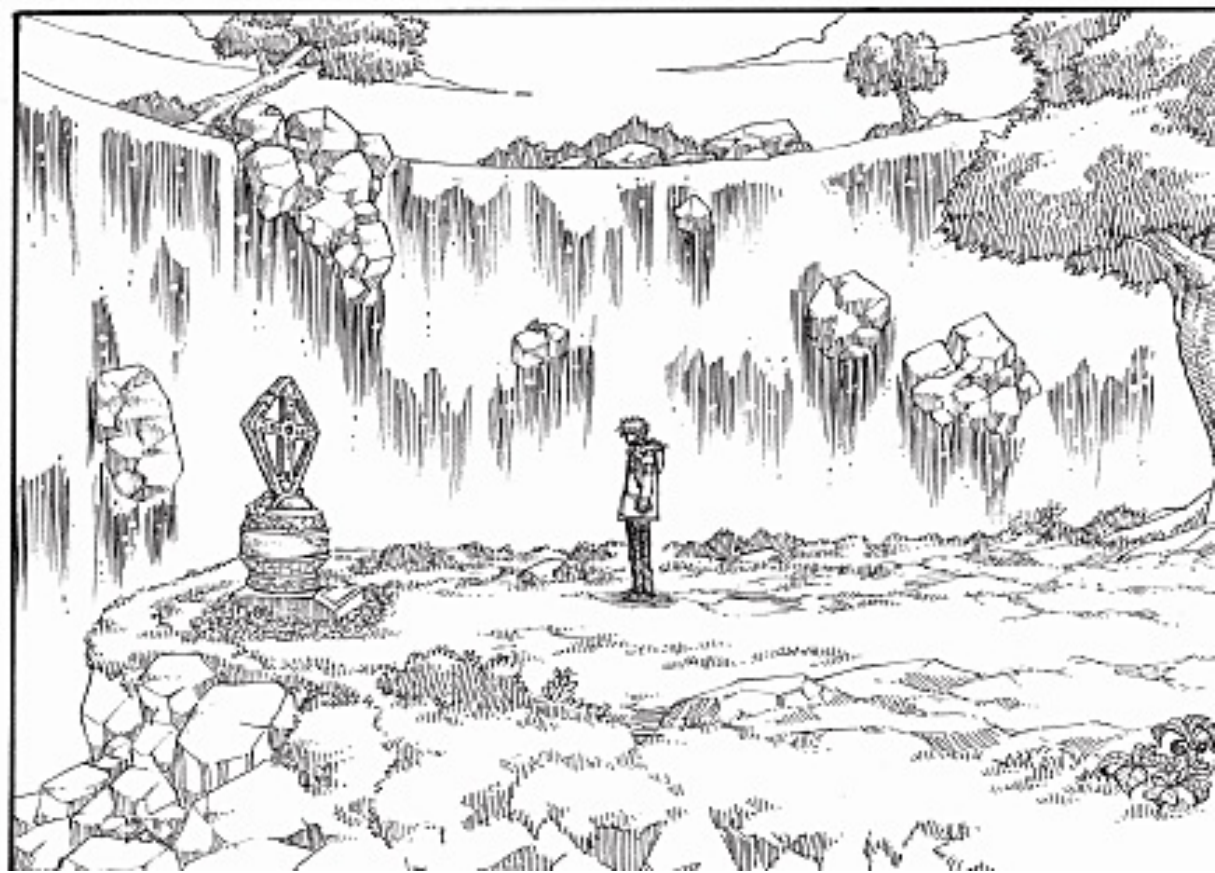
ZLIP

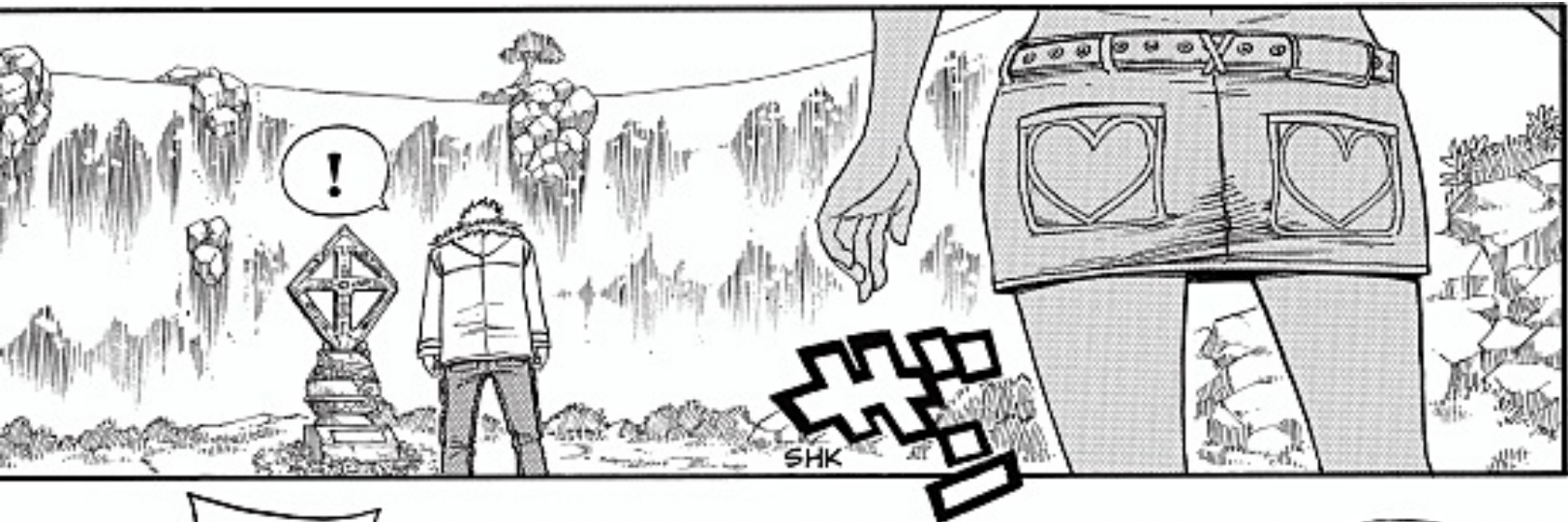


Hey!!
Lucy!!!
Where are
you thinking
of looking
?!!



It
couldn't
be
that...







***Celestial
Spirit
Loke.***

No...

Your true
name would be

***Leo of
the Lion
Palace.***

So you realized that I was a celestial spirit, huh?

.....

So I finally arrived at the truth about you.

After all, I am a celestial wizard, and I've made contracts with quite a few spirits myself.

Contract

Normally whenever an owner of a key dies, the contract with the spirit is null and void.

And the spirit is forced back into the celestial world until a new key owner arrives.

To the next owner.

But I should have figured it out sooner.

SHK

SHK

There must have been some reason for you not to return to the celestial world.

With Karen dead, your contract should have been broken, but you remained in the human world.

Being in the wrong world drains your life force...

...and eventually it ends in death.

Humans cannot live in the celestial world.

And celestial spirits can't live in the human world.

Yes... But I've reached my limit.

Three years?!! One year should have been impossible !!

My power just won't come out anymore.

It's been three years.



Tell me the reason you can't go back!!! I'll try to open your gate!!!

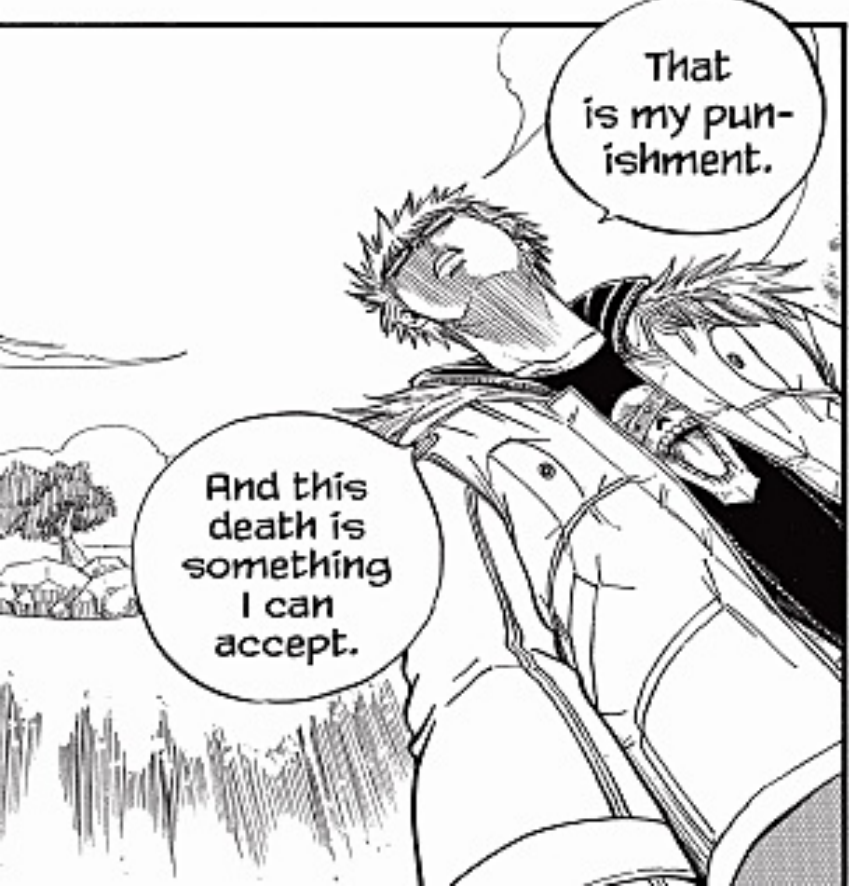
I... I may be able to find a way to save you!!!!

?!

I can't go back for the simplest reason.

What are you talking about?! If you don't do something, you'll really die!!

I can't be saved.



And this death is something I can accept.

That is my punishment.

Banished... eternally...?

I broke a basic rule between owners and celestial spirits.



And as a result, I was banished eternally from the celestial world.



I am a
treasonous
celestial
spirit.

*Karen
was my
owner, and
I killed
her.*

FAIRY & TAIL



FAIRY TAIL

Name: Loke (Real Name: Leo) Age: ?? yrs.

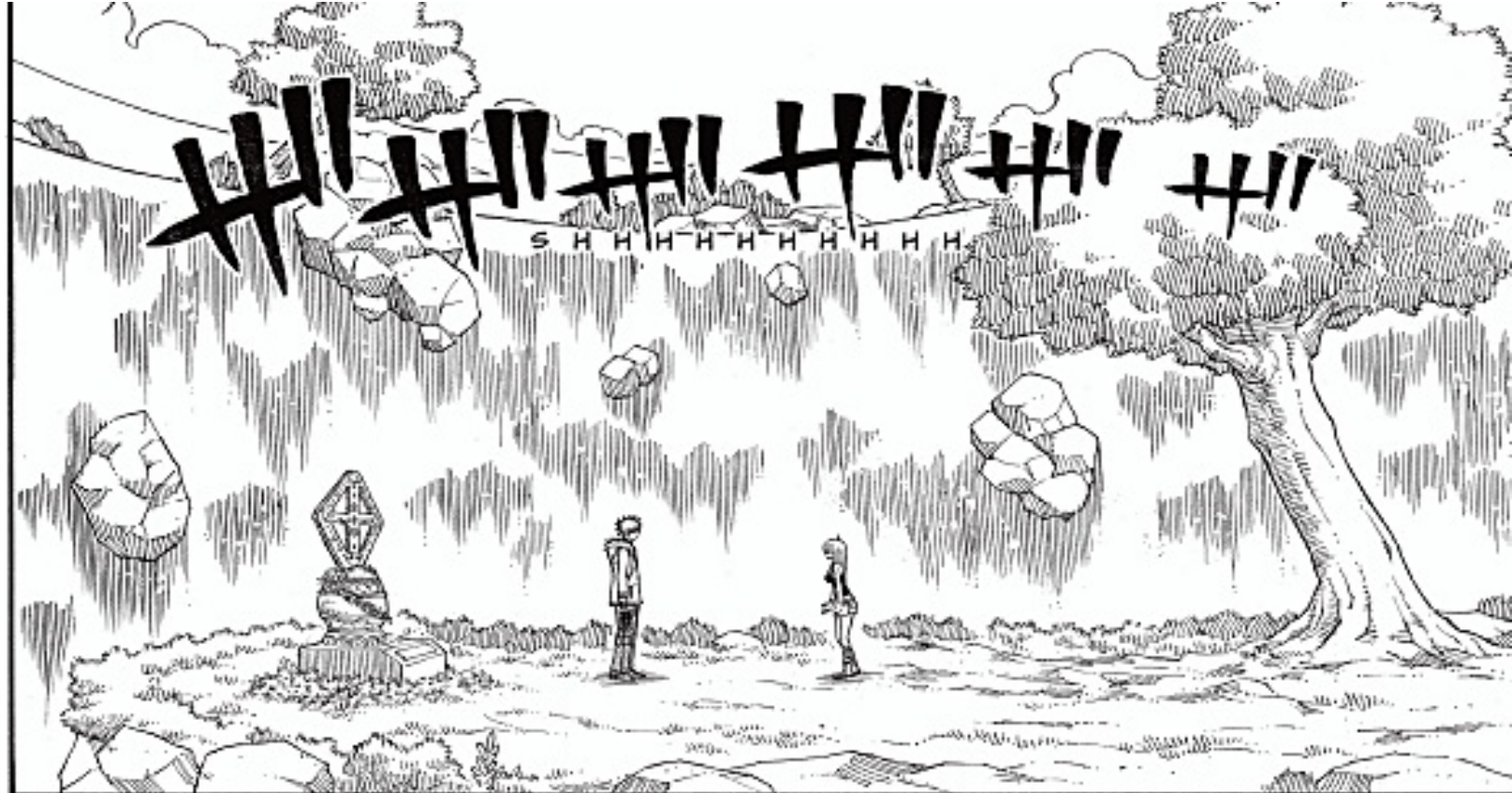
Magic: Finger Ring Magic

Likes: Females Dislikes: Celestial Wizards?



Remarks

The finger ring magic he normally uses makes use of mass-produced magic items: lacrima crystal-powered finger rings. His real magic can only manifest when he is summoned as the celestial spirit Leo. It is believed that his love of women comes from the influence Karen had on him. She was able to manipulate even those humans closest to her, so he thought that he could use the same principles to be a success in the human world. The only reason he avoided Lucy was because of his guilt toward celestial wizards. As a woman, Lucy is very much his type.



It was three years ago...

So you're a Blue Pegasus wizard, Karen?

ど SHK

ど SHK

ど SHK

Did she pick up a bunch of guys again?

CHATTER

CHATTER
おは

What's that supposed to be?

Why don't
you guys
just go
home?

I'm
going to
the spa
now.

That's awful!
I'm Takurô!
We've had dinner
together three
times now!!

Hey, you!
Do you
even have a
name?

No! You
were going
out with
me!

We were
supposed
to hit a
restaurant!

Aw! You and
I had a date
arranged for
today!

GRUMBLE
GRUMBLE
GRUMBLE
GRUMBLE
GRUMBLE

You're all
the same!!
Such
whiners!!

Well, I
bought her
a Memphis
Ring!

I've
treated her
five
times!

Who
cares?!
She's been
pestering me
to buy her
a condo!



Open!!
Gate to
the Ram
Palace...



You
called
...?
?

**Aries
!!!**

Aries of the
Ram Palace



There
she is!!!
Aries-
chan!!!

Ohhhh
!!!



I-I'm not a celestial spirit who is meant to entertain men...



Let's go have some fun, Aries-chan!!!

Okay!!
Okay!!



B-But... I'm not...



I'm sick of this. You take care of these men.



F-Forgive me!!!

Are you defying a direct order?!

Huh
?!



A celestial spirit talking back to me? I won't stand for it!!



Humph!

YEAH GREAT

ALL RIGHT WHOO



Huh? She's my property! How I treat her is my business!!



Now, you know it's wrong to treat your celestial spirits badly, Karen-chan!



Hard on her? Celestial spirits don't have those kinds of feelings.



On that job you did a little while back, you used her as a shield and made her take a magical attack for you.

Treating her like a servant and maid every day, making her entertain the men you pick up.

But it's hard on Aries-chan.

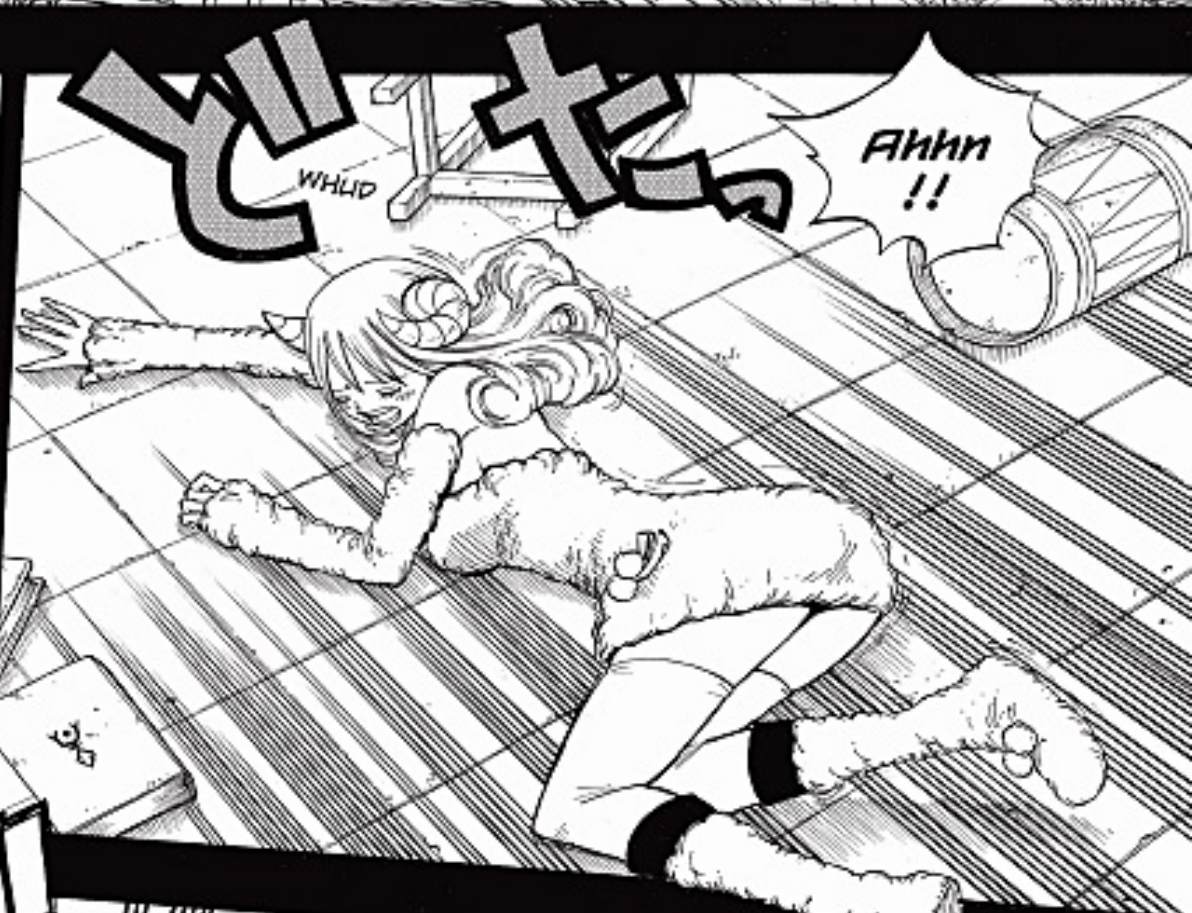


Celestial spirits are living creatures !!

Treat them as anything less, and next time you'll be the one who suffers!!



Don't bring
your petty
grievances to
the Master
ever again,
got it?!!



Here
in the
human
world!!

You need
punishment. You
will stay in this
world for seven
days!!

Wh-What
are you
going to
do with
those...?

CHANK

CHING

But you
should be
worrying
about
yourself.

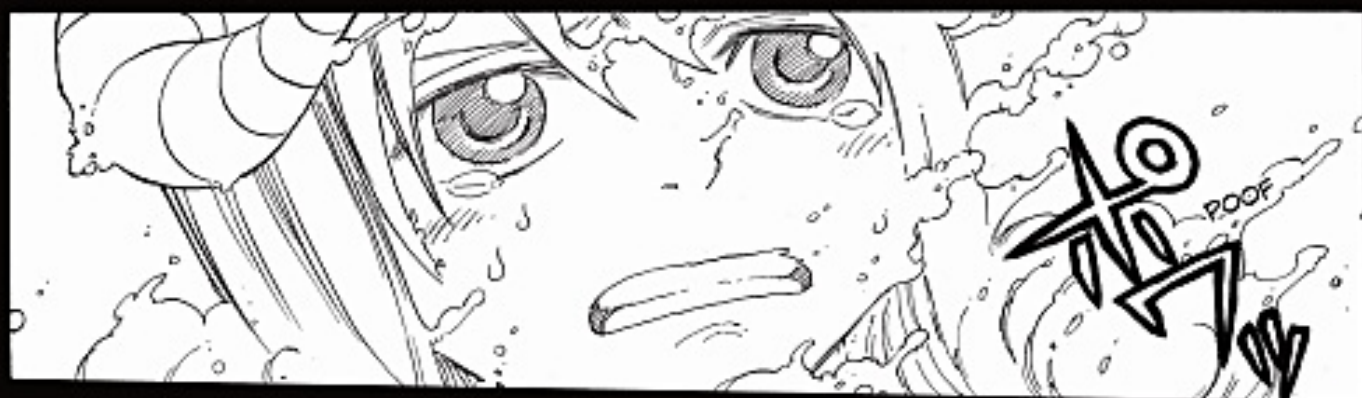
Yes, it
will. Don't
underesti-
mate me.

Seven days...
Karen-sama,
your magic
won't hold
out that
long!!

...I
wonder
what will
happen?
Hm?

CHINK

If a
celestial
spirit
stays in
the human
world for
seven
days...



She didn't run.

I forced her to change places with me.



You think you can run away?!! Don't even try!! I can just call you back anytime I want!!!



Leo
?!!!

Leo of the
Lion Palace
(Loke)

Shape
up,
Karen.



What do
you think
you're doing,
opening
your own
gate?!!



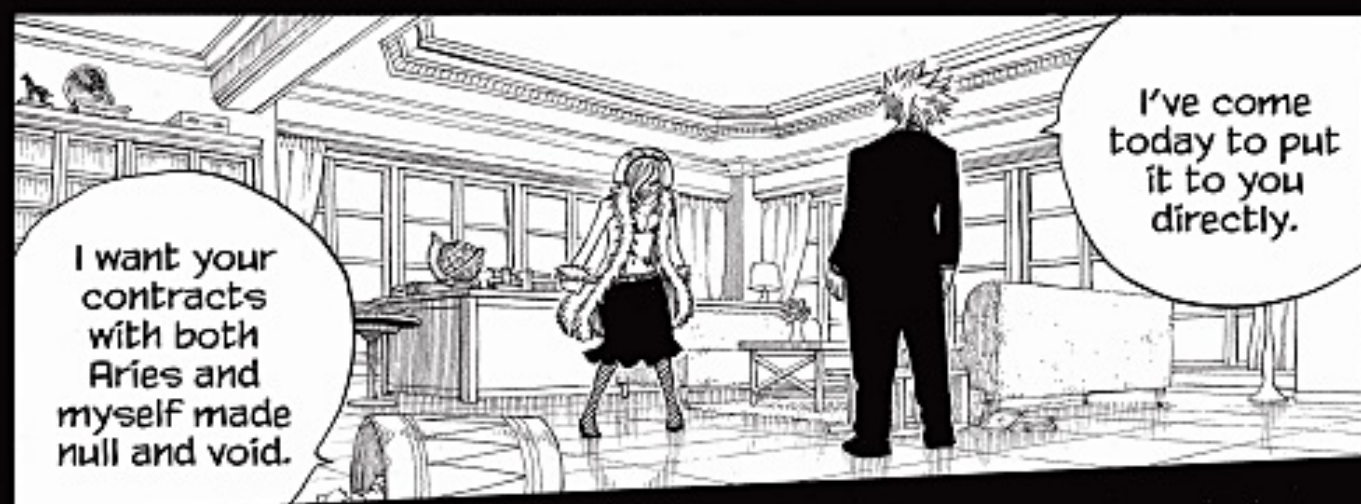
You're just
a stupid
celestial
spirit! What
can you do
about it?!

But if you
do anything
more to
Aries, I will
not stand
for it!!



I'm a
celestial
spirit meant
for battle.
I'm pretty
tough.

I can even
withstand
a little
bit of
abuse.



I want your contracts with both Aries and myself made null and void.

I've come today to put it to you directly.



No celestial spirit is allowed to speak that way!!!

What did you say?!!!



Go back !!!

Close!!! Gate of the Lion Palace!!!!



You are a failure as a celestial wizard.



Shut up!!! Shut your mouth!!!!

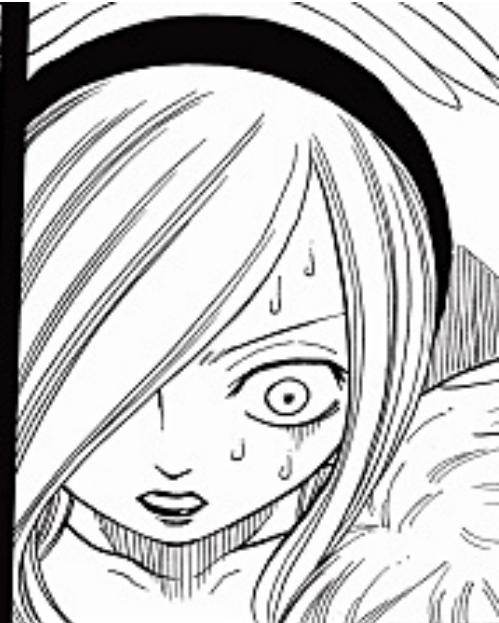


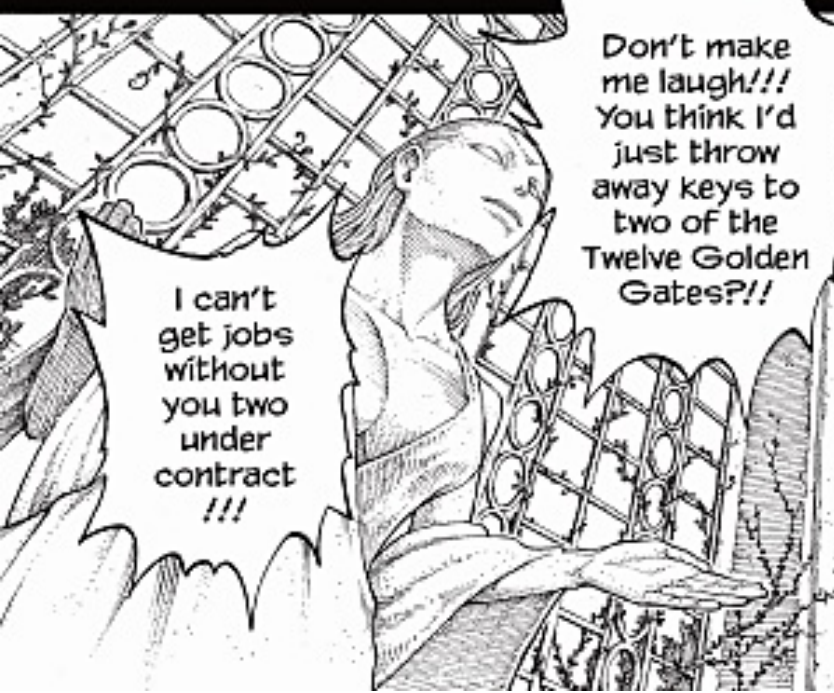
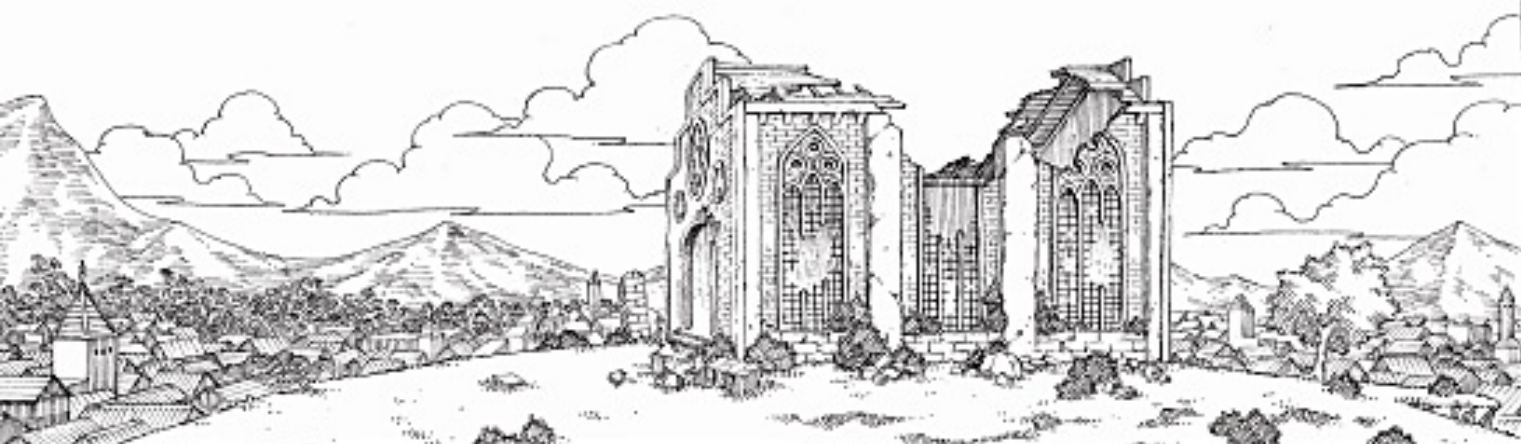
Your terrible behavior makes me sick. The other spirits are praying that you never lay a finger on their keys.



Wh-
Why...?
Why can't
I do a
forced
closure...?



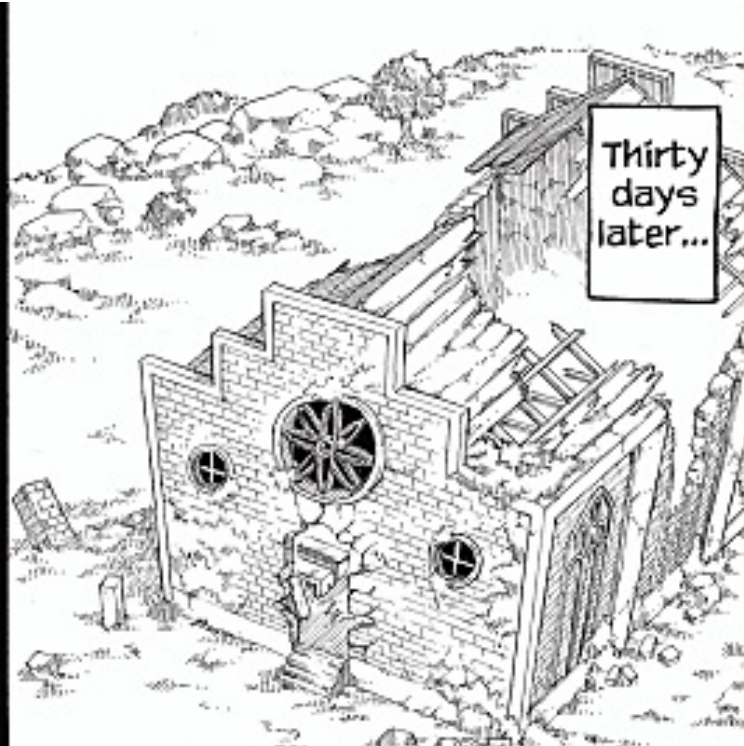




Don't make me laugh!!!
You think I'd just throw away keys to two of the Twelve Golden Gates?!!

Are... you going... to release Aries and me... from our contracts...?

It's been ten days. You can't stay in the human world much longer, right?



Thirty
days
later...



When
you're
ready to
release
us, come
back...

Go
away...



Don't lie...to
me...We can
talk...after
you've released
us from...our
contracts...

HAHH

HAHH

HAHH



I
promise
never to do
anything to
Aries again,
okay?

Please!!!
I can't
go on
any jobs
without
you!!

So,
come
on!! Go
back
to your
palace!!



HAHH

HAHH

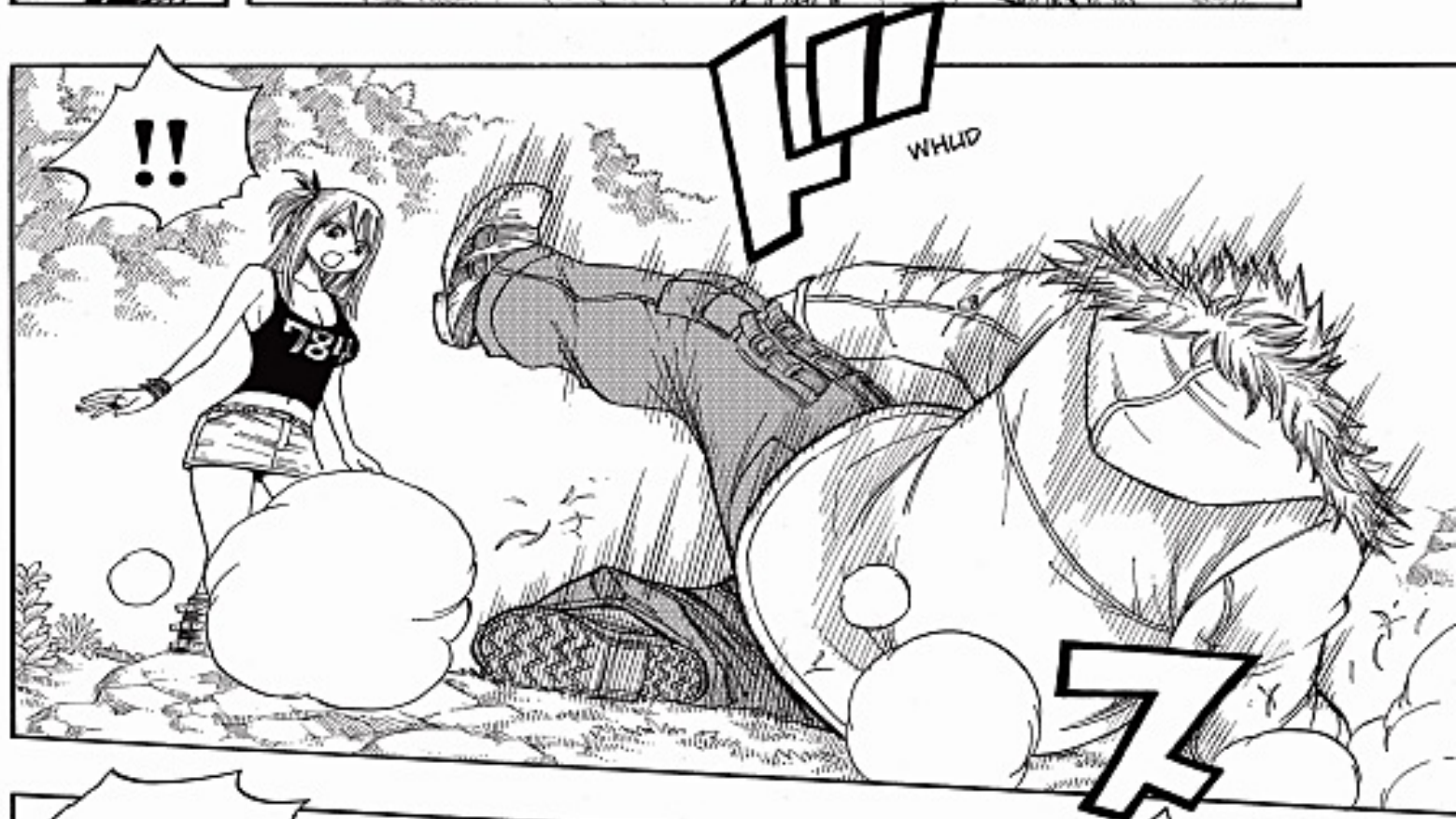
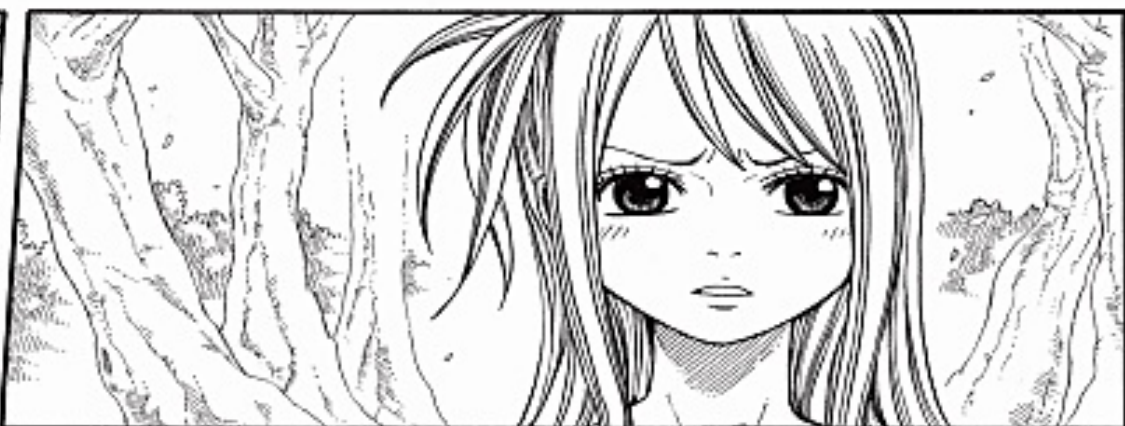
HAHH

Once you're
dead, I can
summon Aries
again!!!
And you can
bet I'll work
her like a
slave!!!



Dammit!!!
Then die!!!
Die!!!!

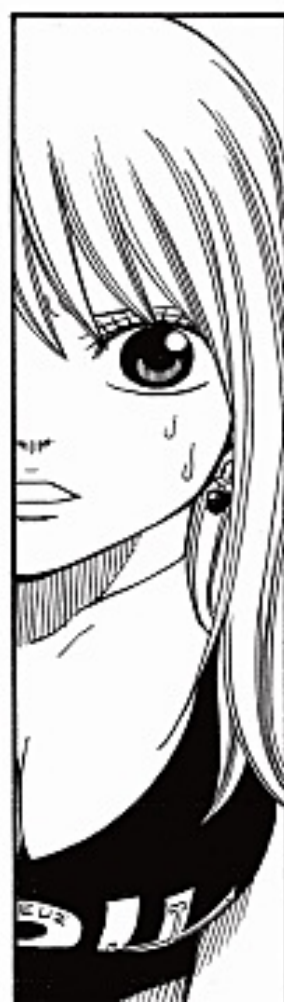
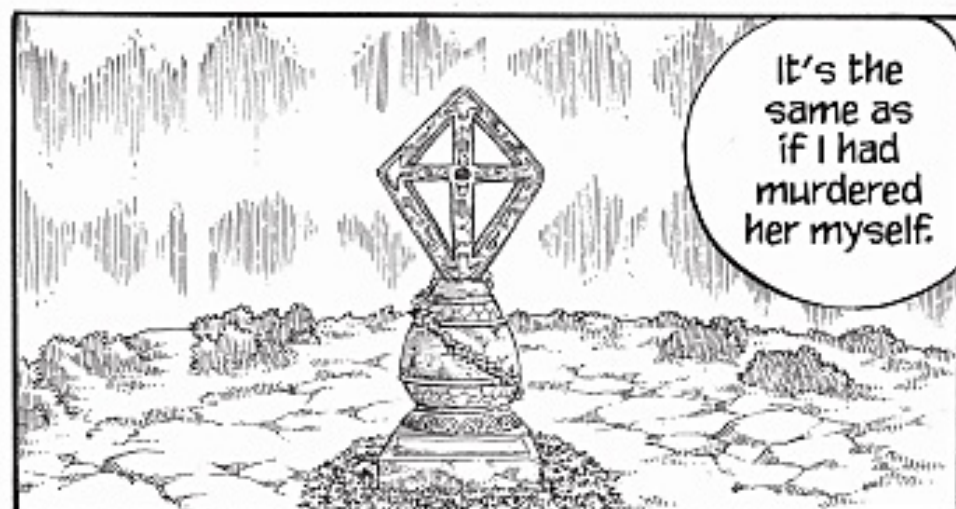
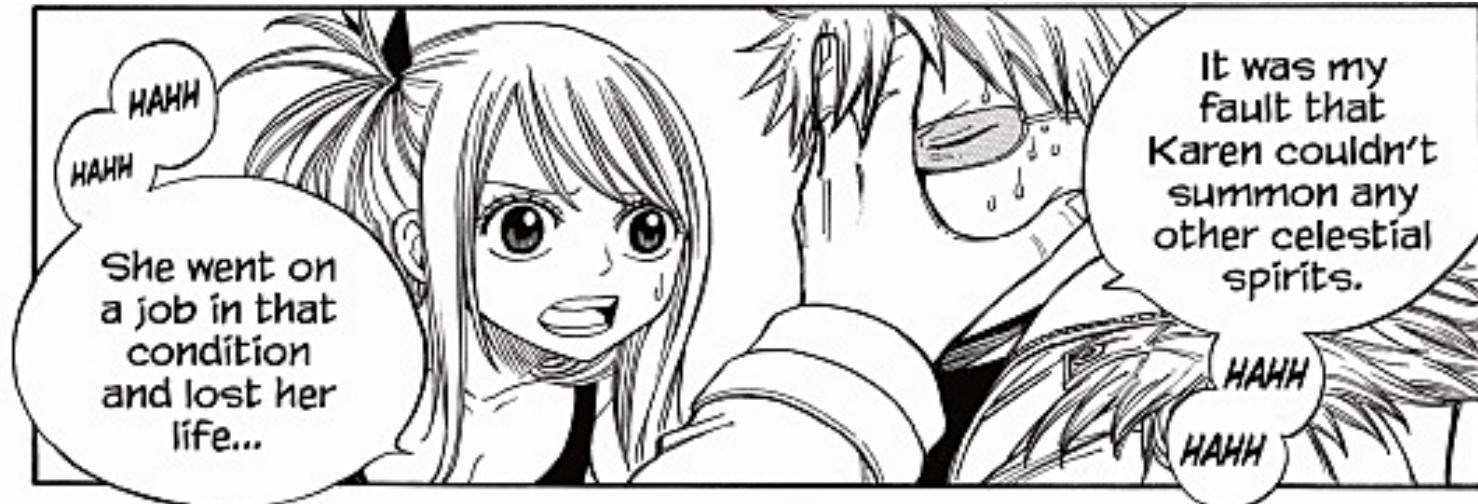


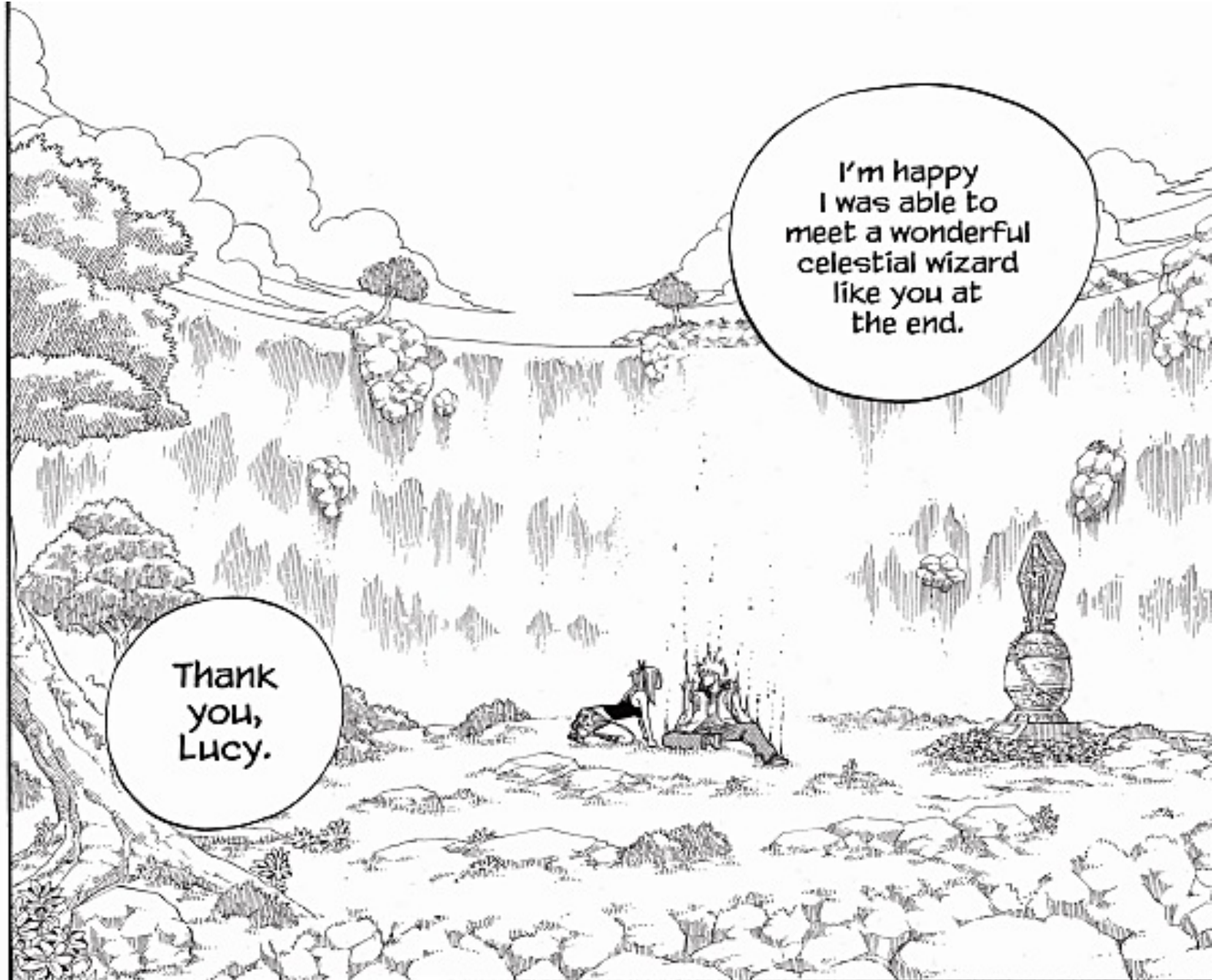


Wh-What
are you
saying?!!

It's my
time...
I think...

Loke
!!!





Thank
you,
Lucy.

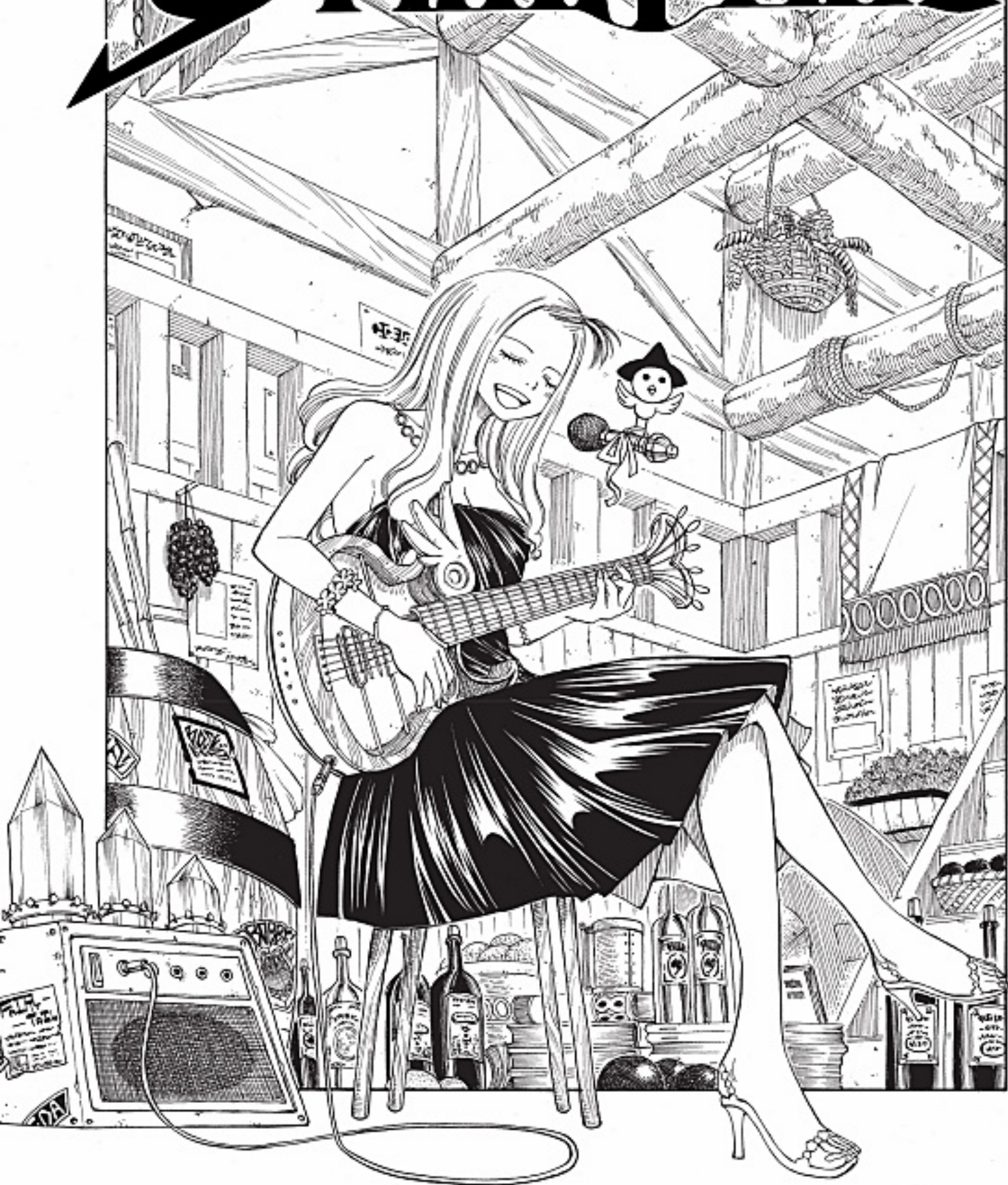
I'm happy
I was able to
meet a wonderful
celestial wizard
like you at
the end.

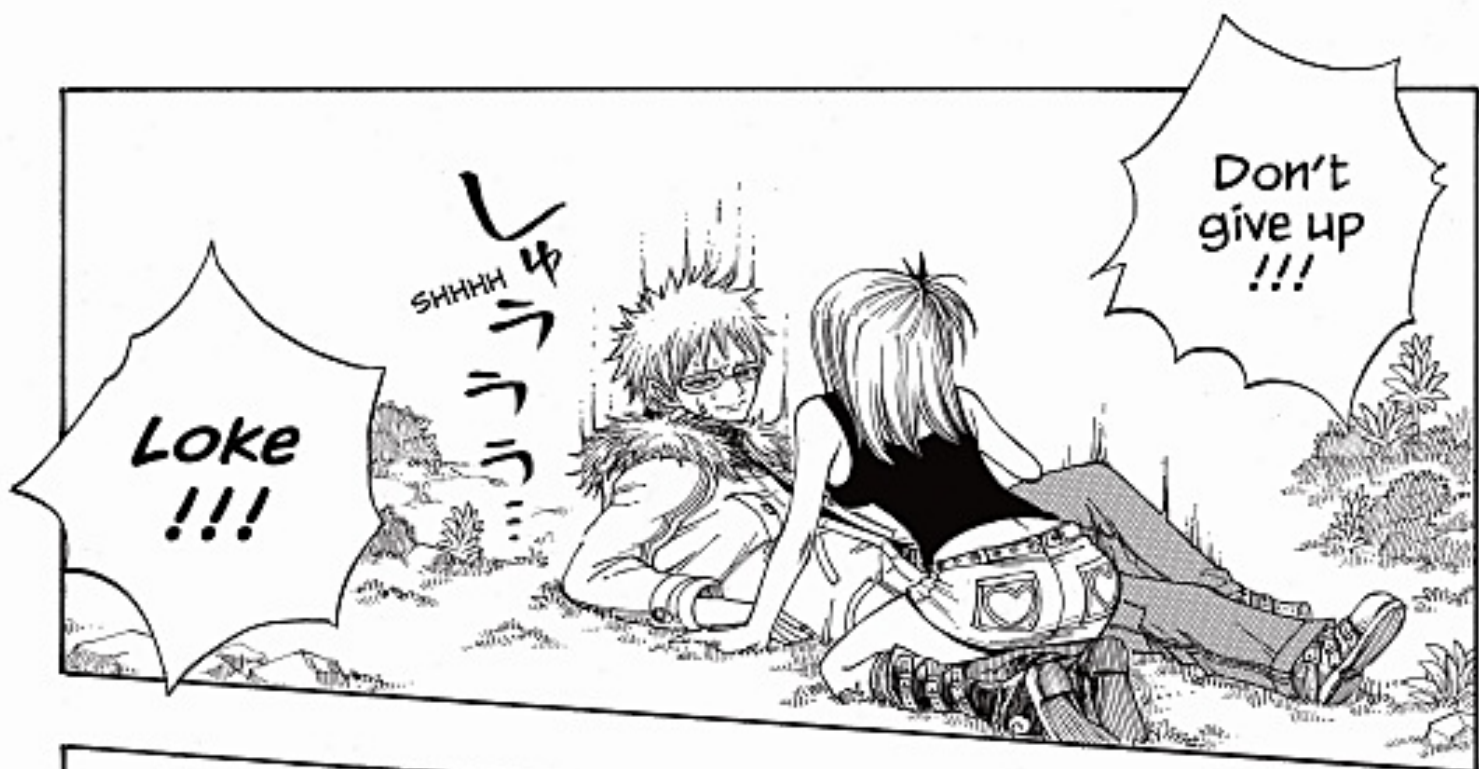


*I know
I can
save you!!!
Don't
give up
yet!!!!*

Wait!!!

FAIRYTAIL





Chapter 74: Celestial Spirit King

*Her death
was just an
accident,
right?!!!*

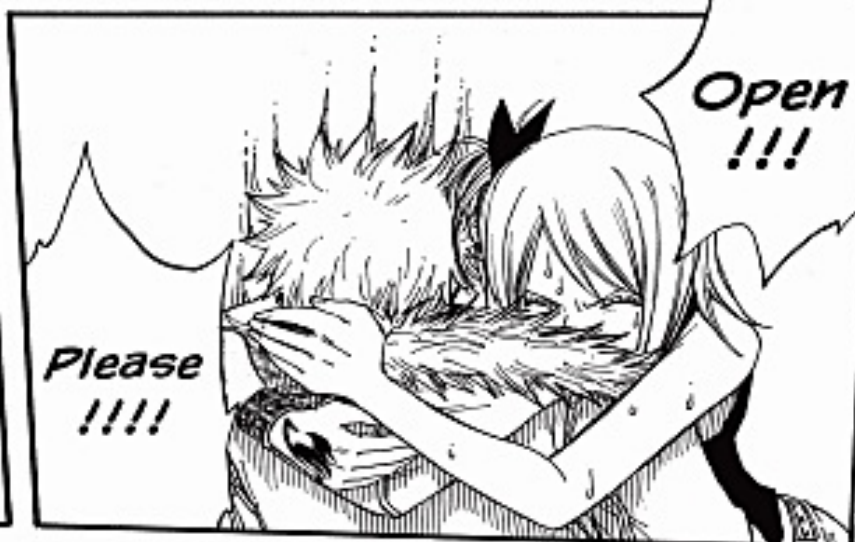
*But
this
isn't
right
!!!*

*That's
not the
same as
actually
murdering
Karen!!!*

*Open
!!!!
Gate of
the Lion
Palace
!!!!*

*Take
Loke back
to the
celestial
world!!!!*







Lucy!!! You
can't use
up all your
power at
once like
that!!!!



N n n g g g!!!



It won't open!!! A
celestial spirit in
a contract with a
human can't defy
her and ever hope
to return!!!!



I'll show
you that
I can do
a forced
opening of
the
gate
to the
celestial
world!!!

I
promised
you, didn't
I?!! I'm
going
to save
you!!!



You'll
wind up
disappearing
with me if
you don't
stop!!!!

Stop it!!!
You're
starting to
assimilate
into the
celestial
world!!!!

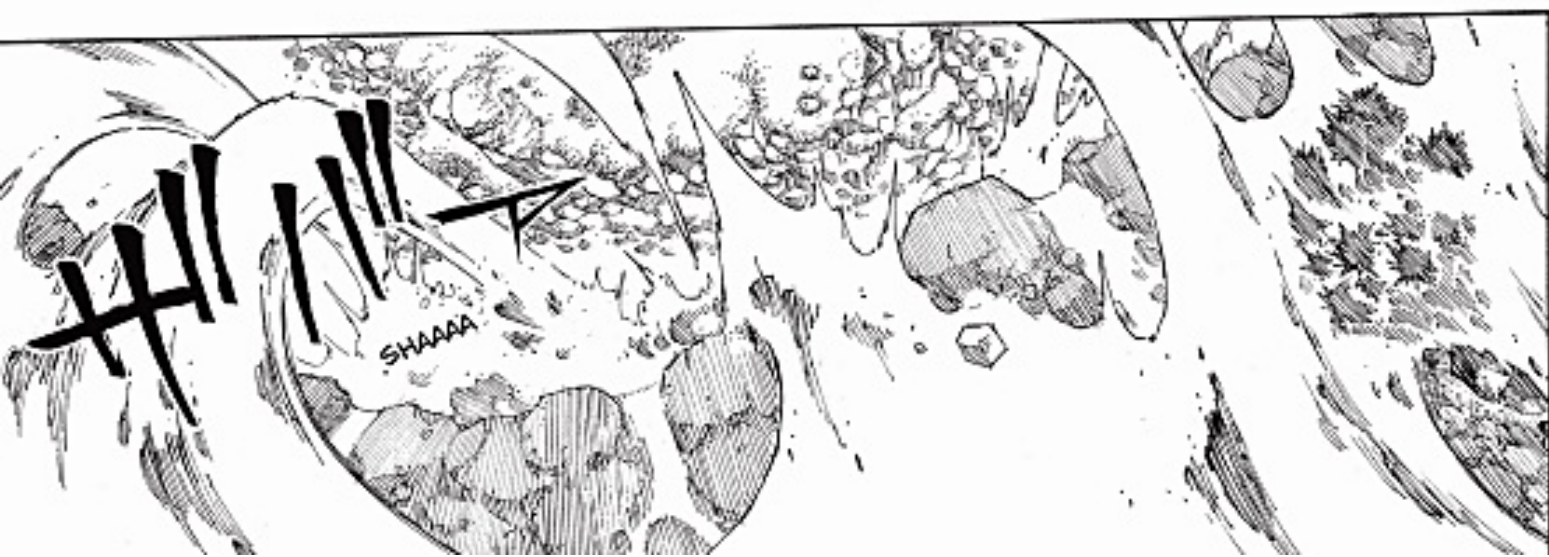


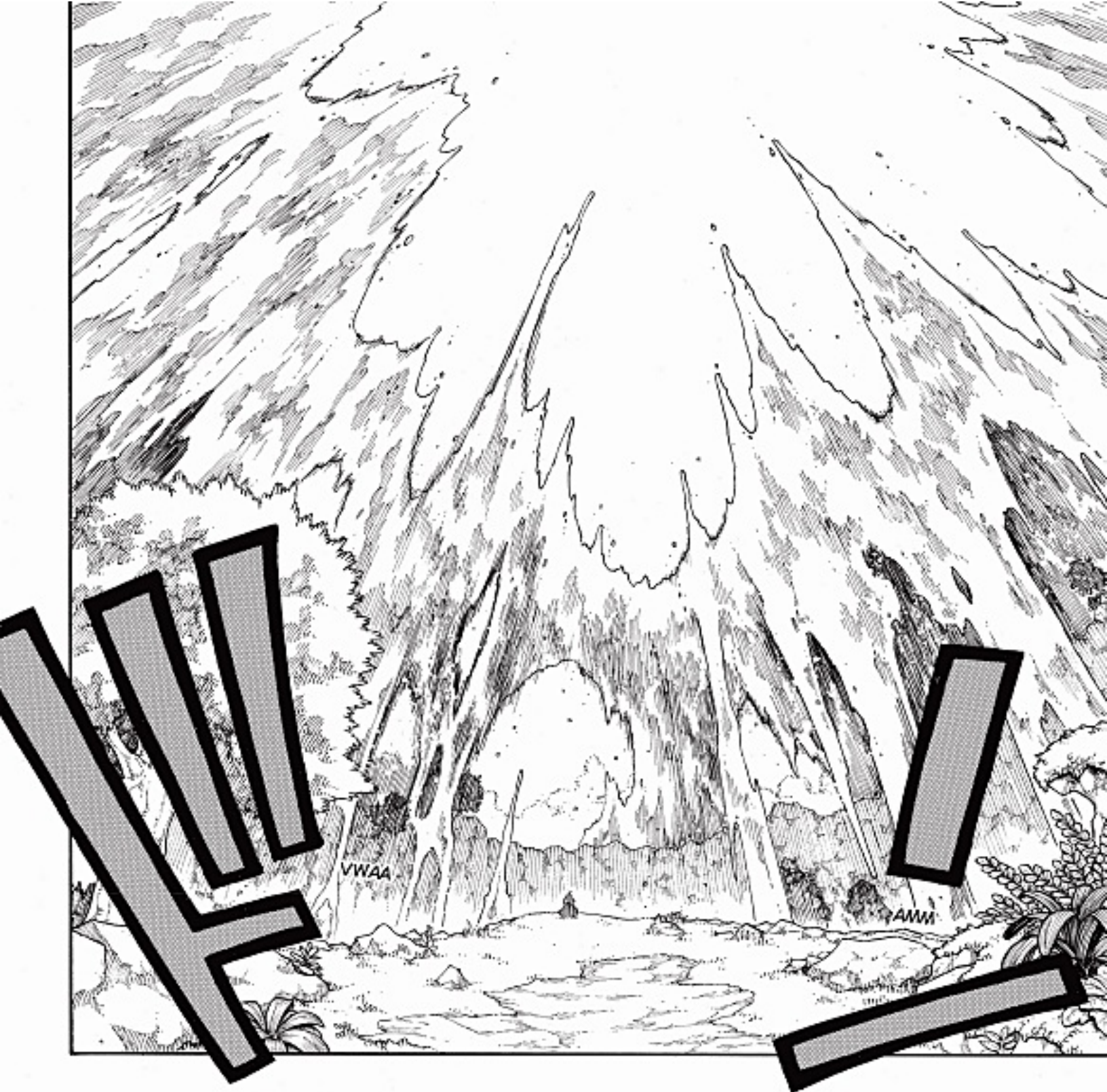
Don't pile
any more
guilt onto
me than
I already
have!!!!

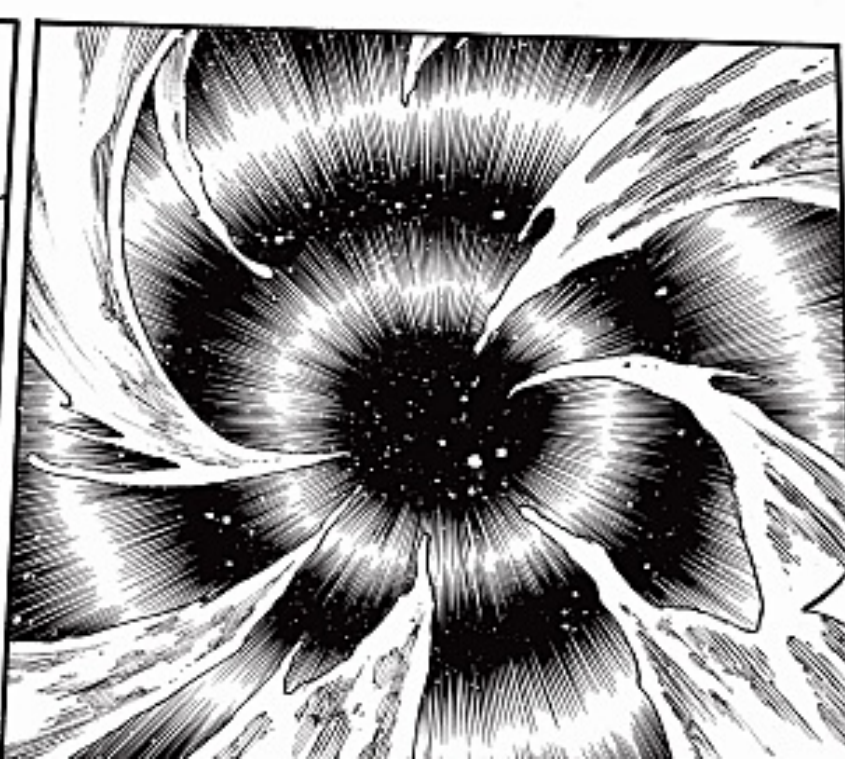


If those
are the
rules
of the
celestial
world, then
I'm going
to change
them!!!!

What
guilt
?!!!



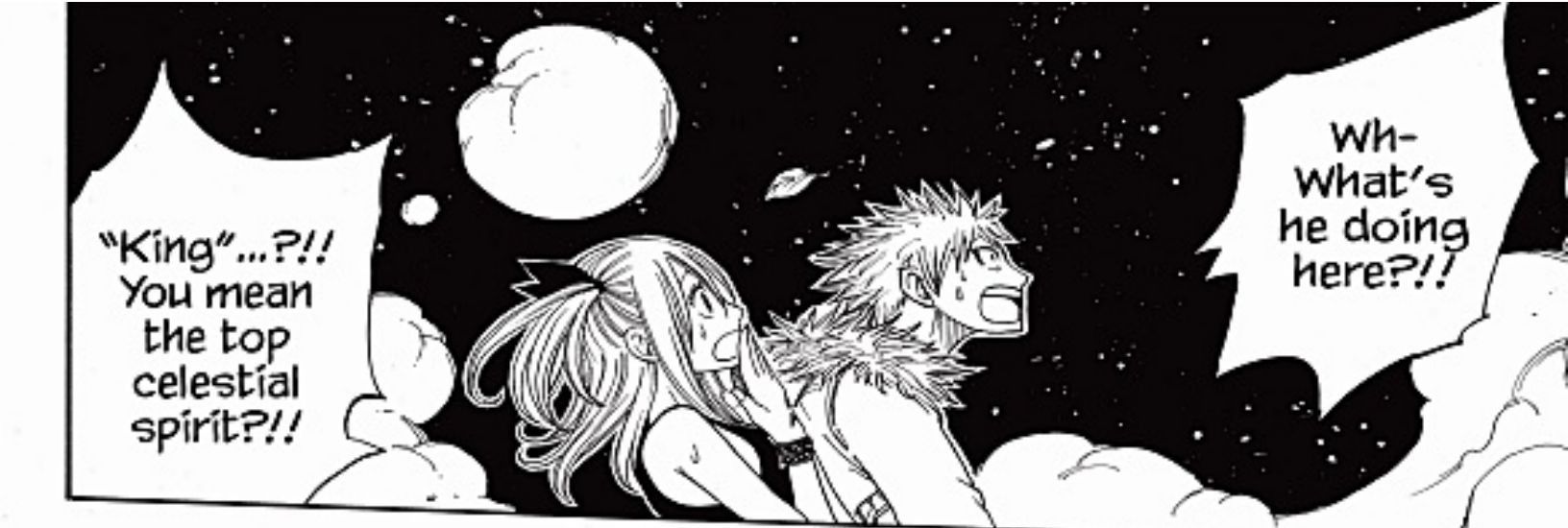






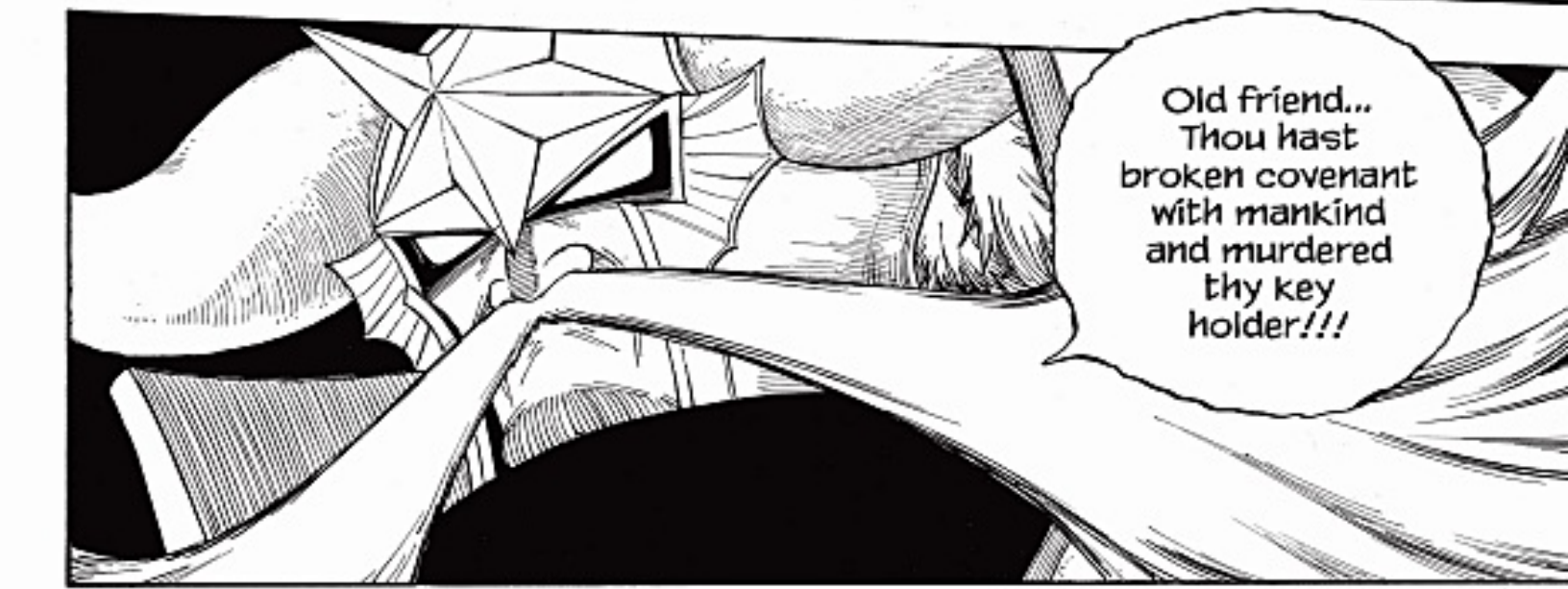
*The
celestial
spirit
king!!!!*



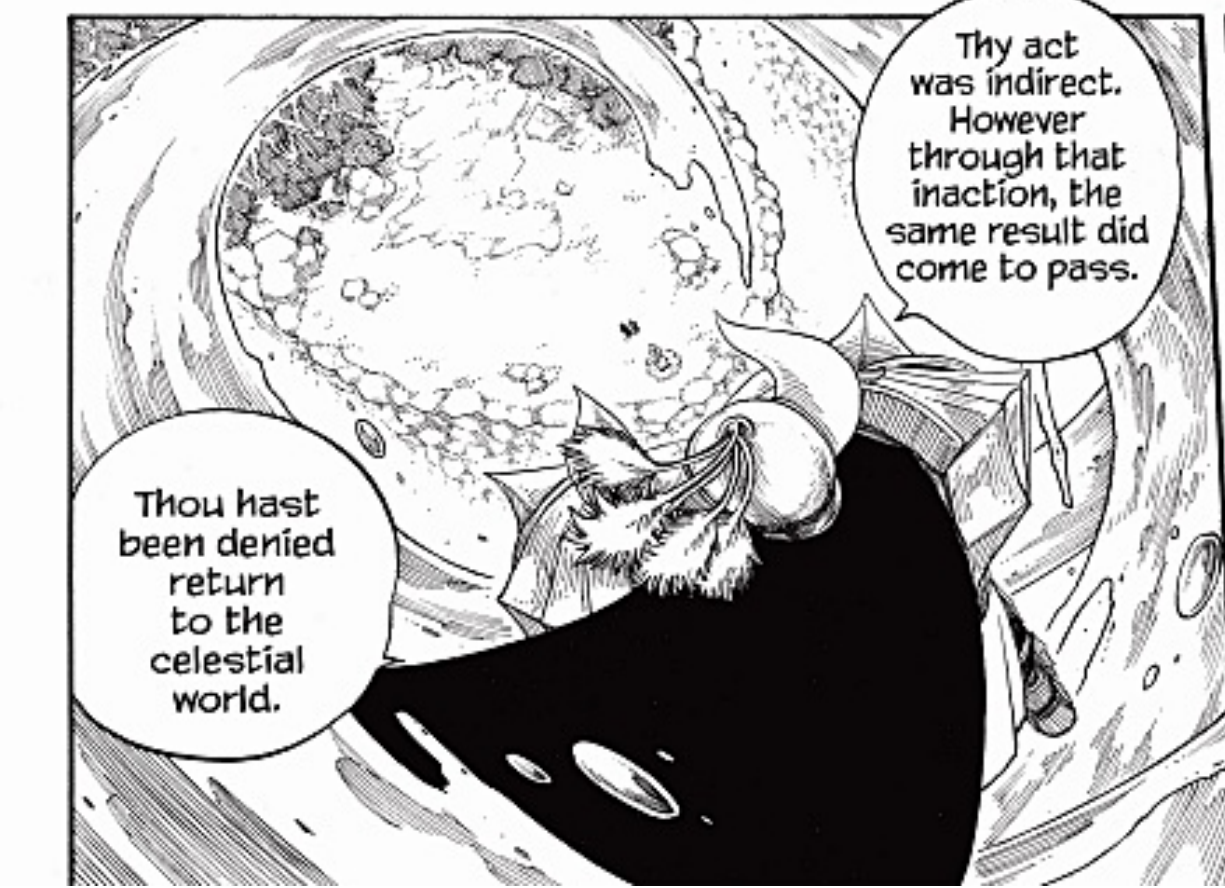
A black and white manga panel showing two characters floating in a night sky with a full moon and stars. The character on the left is a girl with long hair, looking surprised. The character on the right is a boy with spiky hair, also looking surprised.

"King"...?!!
You mean
the top
celestial
spirit?!!

Wh-
What's
he doing
here?!!

A black and white manga panel showing a close-up of a character's face, likely the boy from the previous panel. He has a serious expression and is looking down.

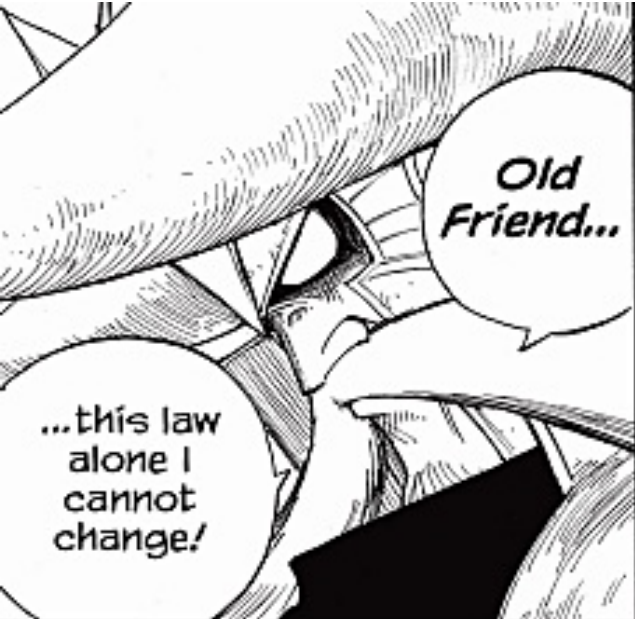
Old friend...
Thou hast
broken covenant
with mankind
and murdered
thy key
holder!!!

A black and white manga panel showing a character with spiky hair and a crown-like headpiece floating in a celestial realm. The background features a large, glowing sphere with a face-like pattern. The character has a somber expression.

Thy act
was indirect.
However
through that
inaction, the
same result did
come to pass.

Thou hast
been denied
return
to the
celestial
world.





Old Friend...

...this law alone I cannot change!



S-Stop it, Lucy!!!

Wait a minute!!
That's not fair!!!



He's been tortured for three years!!!



A tiny event like that, and the king himself...

That can't be!!!
He can't have appeared here just because Lucy said she'd change the rule!!!

TREMBLE

TREMBLE



It pains my heart to hear my old friend's plea, but...



And he did it for friendship
!!!
He had to do it for Aries's sake!!!!

*So
listen to
him, you
bearded
old
fart!!!!*

*I'm not
talking
about
"old
friends
!!!!"*

*I'm talking
about a
friend who
is here!!!
Now!!!
Right
before your
eyes!!!*

*Because
I won't
accept any
verdict
but
not
guilty!!!!*

*It was just an
unfortunate
accident,
right?!! What
is this crime
that Loke is
supposed to have
committed?!!*

Mm!

*I
won't
allow
that!!!!*

*I want
to pay
for my
sins!!!*

*I
want to
vanish
this
way!!!*

*That's
enough,
Lucy!!!*

*I'm
not asking
anybody to
forgive
me for
this!!!*

*It
isn't
a
sin
!!!!*

*It isn't
a sin
to look
after
your
friends
!!!!*



...that
many...
all
here at
once...

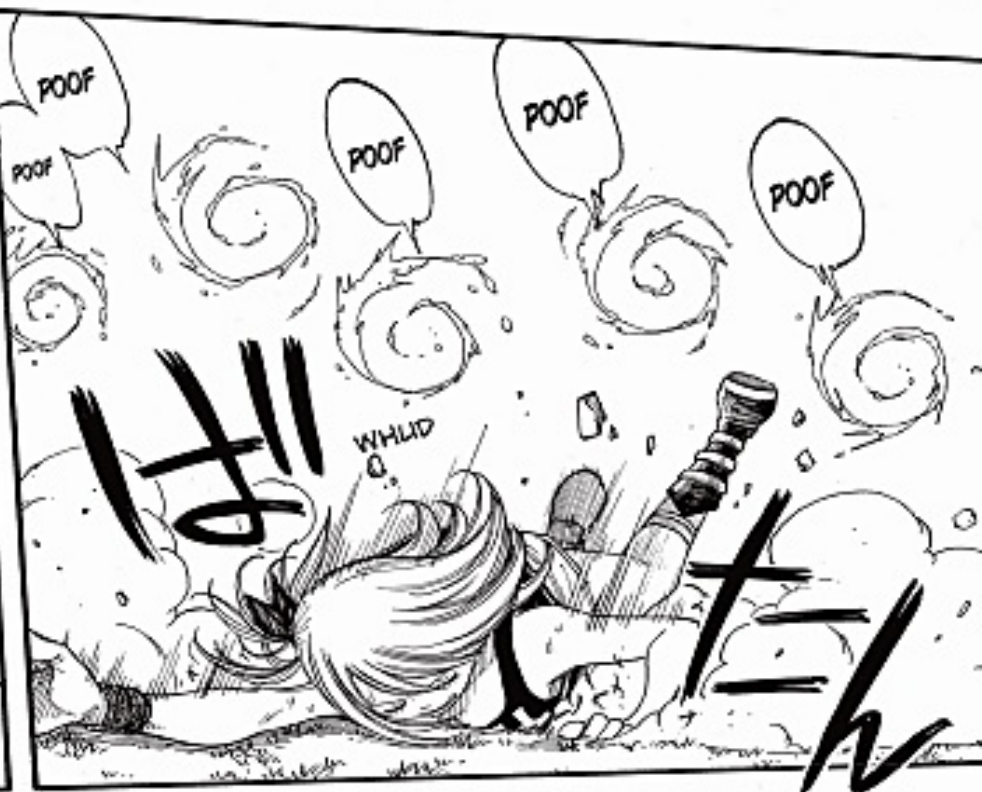
The
celestial
spirits...



Lucy
!!!



My
"friends"
feel the
same
way...



*If you're a
celestial spirit
too, then
you should
understand
what Loke and
Aries felt!!!!*





Uhn...

It may have been only for a moment, but you could've died doing that!!!!

Quit trying to do the impossible!!!!



...perhaps the fault lies with the law.

If you will speak thus unto my old friend...

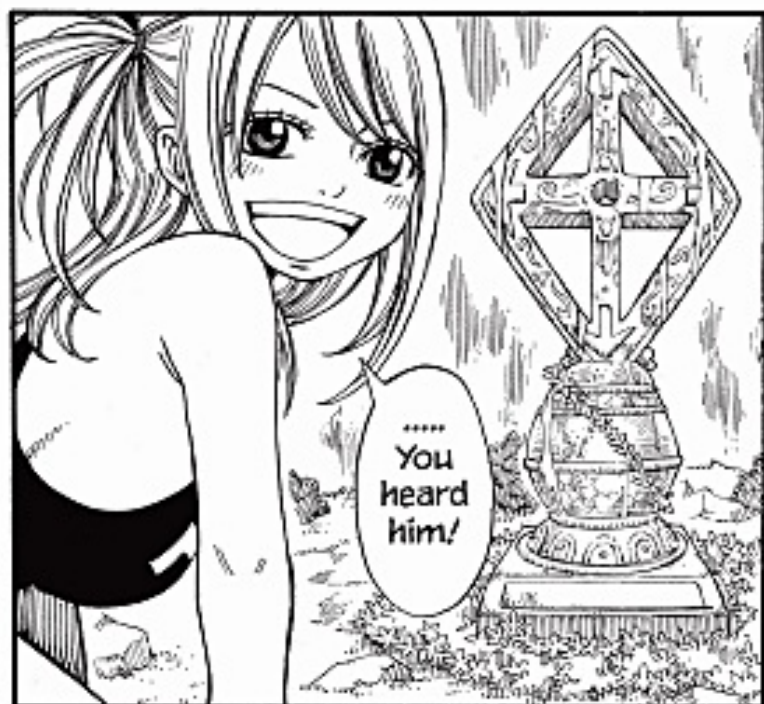
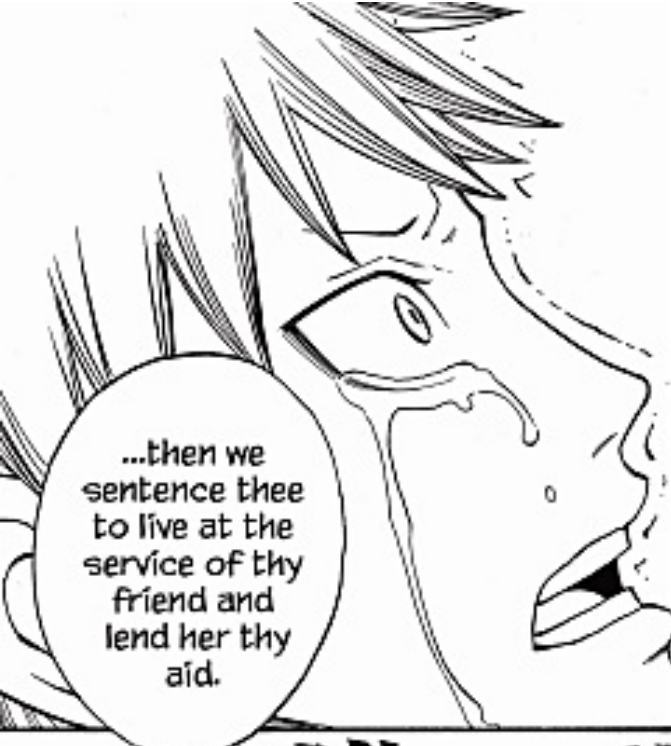


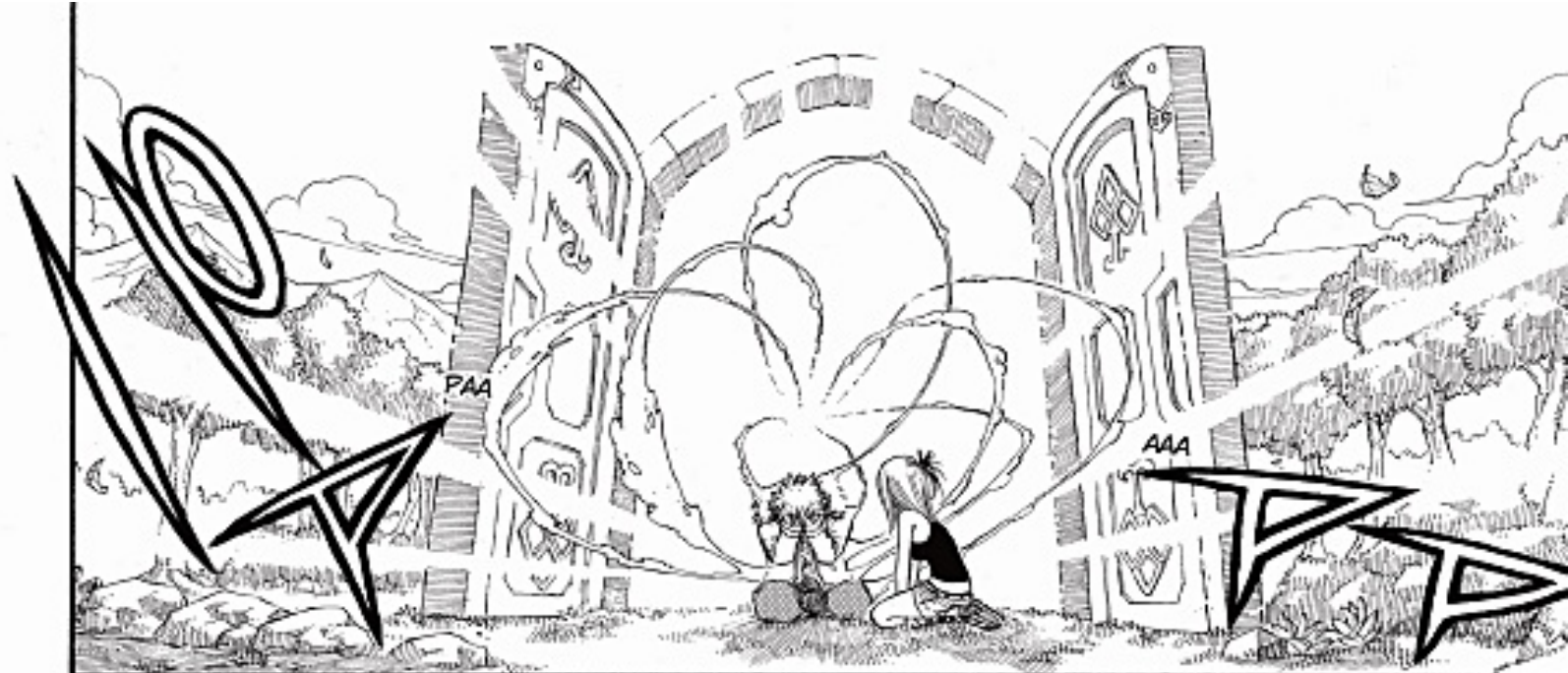
Leo committed a crime for the sake of his fellow spirit, Aries.

Now his old friend attempts to save his life.





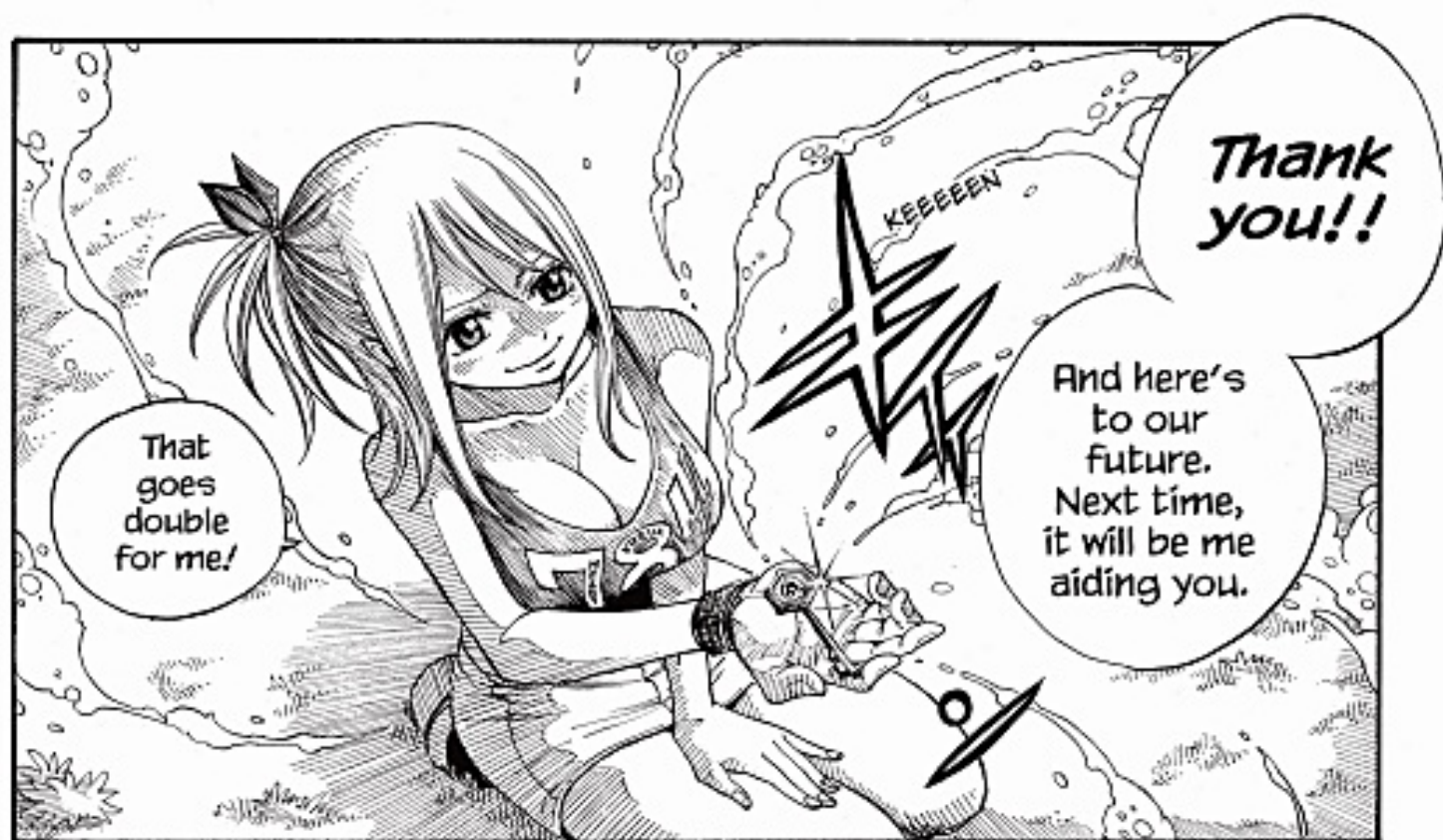




...but
you've
given
me the
courage
to go on.



This may
not take
away the
guilt I
feel...



That
goes
double
for me!

**Thank
you!!**

And here's
to our
future.
Next time,
it will be me
aiding you.

TO BE CONTINUED

AFTERWORD

Man, am I busy!! Yeah, for a manga-ka that's a great thing to be able to say, but I'm way too busy!! If you want to know why, it's because I have another manga series—this time a monthly series. I've done this in the past, doing a monthly and a weekly series at the same time, but this time there are so many more pages required than last time! So the pace is so much different than before. By the way, when I was only doing a weekly manga, the amount of work equaled twenty pages of manga, twenty pages of *name* (the Japanese term for a rough-sketches story and dialogue), plus a couple of color pieces and small odd jobs. But the quantity of work I had last week was forty-three manga pages, sixty-nine pages of *name*, four color pages, and tons of those small, odd jobs. What the heck was that week all about?!! The only thing I can do is laugh about it!! Yeah, it was an unusually heavy week that included a short story, so the page numbers were artificially high, but even so, my regular work week is about twice as busy as before. Man! It's unbelievable!!

Recently I met another creator, and was asked what my motivation is for doing all of that work. I don't know how to answer that question. I never even considered the concept of motivation. Of course, I love manga, and that's why I draw it. But that's the basic assumption for any manga-ka. In my case, maybe it includes journeyman-style training. That probably sums it up. I've been doing this work for over ten years, but I can't seem to get good at drawing. (Ha ha!) Is it true that if I draw a lot, I'll become better? Normally, you'd think so...Anyway, I'm busy! Really busy! And that's what comes out of my mouth when I'm talking to the people around me, but inside I'm having so much fun, I can hardly contain it! I can draw a whole lot of manga! My manga will be read by a whole lot of people! That's probably my motivation, huh?



From the Counter at Fairy Tail...



: All you readers out there, hello! ♥



: Hello! You're in a good mood today, Lucy!

Lucy: Sure! It's the ninth volume, and the stories were all about me!! It's like Volume 9 was drawn especially for me! ♥

Mira: That's what it means to be a heroine, I guess, huh? Well, while you're in such a good mood, let's get started on the questions.

How many sets of armor total can Erza requip into?

Lucy: That question is pretty painful...er...I mean sharp!

Mira: The two of us can't answer it, so let's call in the woman herself. Introducing our special guest, Erza!



: Mm.

Lucy: Don't just say, "Mm"! If you don't come up with some greeting, you'll lose popularity points!

Erza: No...Well...I suppose I am not used to this...Uh...Hello.

Mira: So about the question we just heard. Erza, how many suits of armor do you have?

Erza: Many.



: Wait a second! None of the readers will really count that as an answer! You're going to have to do better than that to increase your point score!

Mira: What are popularity points exactly?

Erza: I have more than a hundred different types. I haven't counted them all myself, but I also count within their ranks dresses and kimono.

Lucy: Requipping is such a great concept! Dressing must be a breeze!

Mira: On to the next question.



How long has Erza been in the Fairy Tail guild?



: Eight years. That brings back memories.



: By the way, I entered six years ago, bringing Elfman and Lisanna with me.

Erza: Natsu entered seven years ago, and Gray had entered even before I did.

Lucy: Huh? You guys have been in the guild a long time! It hasn't even been a year for me!

Erza: The story of my life before Fairy Tail is touched on in Volume 10.

Mira: I'm interested in learning about that!



: What was that? You just casually throw a preview of the next volume into the conversation?

Mira: Okay, the final question.

Who is the heroine of Fairy Tail? Lucy or Erza?



: !!!

Mira: Nobody cares who the "heroine" is, right?

Lucy: What do you mean "nobody?!" I mean, people would automatically assume it's me, right?



: Well...I feel a little embarrassed being addressed as the heroine, but...Am I truly being looked upon in that fashion?

Lucy: Wait a minute!! What are you blushing for?!!

Mira: Certainly at first glance, one would think it's Lucy, but I hear that Erza has more fans.



: *You're kidding!!!*

Erza: Is that so?

Lucy: Wait!! Just look at the cover of Volume 9! It's me!! All me!! I carry the entire cover all by myself!!

Mira: If you look closely, you see an awful lot of celestial spirits there too.

Erza: Lucy, did you know? They included a poster of me in *Weekly Magazine*.

Lucy: Waaaaaaah!!

Erza: And that was only me. Heh heh...

Lucy: Waaaaaaaaaaaaah!

Mira: Well, none of this bickering will settle the matter. So why don't we ask the author directly?

----- *And so...* -----

Mashima: You're asking who the heroine is?

Lucy: It's me, right?! You love drawing pictures of me, don't you?!!

Erza: Do not forget that you drew a poster that was me and me alone.

Mashima: I give up. I think it's okay for the readers to decide who they think the heroine is for themselves.

Mira: Exactly! Nobody cares who it is! ♥

Mashima: Frankly, I think it's okay for the heroine to be Tomeko from Tokekko Restaurant.



: *It is not okay!!*



Send to Hiro Mashima, Kodansha Comics
451 Park Ave. South, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10016

GUILD

By sending in letters or postcards you give us permission to give your name, address, postal code and any other information you include to the author as is. Please keep that in mind.

Rejection Corner

I don't want to be rejected!



Saitama Prefecture, Katsuke G8t8

You can't get everything you want!



Shizuoka Prefecture, Junichi Iwatori



Miyazaki Prefecture, Sayuri



Ibaragi Prefecture, Masahiro Ishizaki

Err? By the way, it's Bako. Although Bako makes a nice girl's name.



Miyagi Prefecture, Shion



Shizuoka Prefecture, Kakeri Matsushima



Hyogo Prefecture, Puririn

Happy New Year's to you! And thanks for all of the New Year's cards!

Wow, that's cute! Is she doing cosplay as a fairy?

These appeared in a limited edition publication. Actually they're based on editors of mine.

The Fairy Tail Guild d'Art is an explosion of fan art! Please send in your black-and-white art on large postcard stock!! Those chosen to be published will get a signed mini poster! ♪ Make sure you write your real name and address on the back of your postcard!

d'ART



Gunma Prefecture, Kayo

▶ An Erza in a school uniform, huh? Just a little while ago I drew a side story like that.



Iwate Prefecture, K5 Mirakaze

▶ This one's very cute!! And well done!



Iwate Prefecture, Sena Minazuki

▶ Whoa! This one has some great artistic sense!



Hyogo Prefecture, K5seika Shimoda

▶ It seems that the battle between these two has gotten itself a good reputation.



Hokkaido, Seiryu Tanaka

▶ A fan from my previous work. I'm so happy I could cry!



Aichi Prefecture, Chib6

▶ Are you a part of the Gloomy Character Fan Club? Maybe not, huh?



Niigata Prefecture, Tomohiko Enomoto

▶ Whoa! Gajeel's scary! This is one page that's got him pinned!



Chiba Prefecture, Koharu

▶ Thank you!! Keep on rooting for me please!



Ishikawa Prefecture, Natsu vs. Haru

▶ And there's Tomoko!!! One came!!! Yeah, but actually there are about twenty other pictures of her! (Ha ha!)

merica. Fairy Tail, currently being serialized

Shonen Magazine, is his latest creation.

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

General Notes: Wizard

In the original Japanese version of *Fairy Tail*, you'll find panels in which the English word "wizard" is part of the original illustration. So this translation has taken that as its inspiration and translated the word *madōshi* as "wizard." But *madōshi*'s meaning is similar to certain Japanese words that have been borrowed by the English language, such as judo (the soft way) and kendo (the way of the sword). *Madō* is the way of magic, and *madōshi* are those who follow the way of magic. So although the word "wizard" is used in the original dialogue, a Japanese reader would be likely to think not of traditional Western wizards such as Merlin or Gandalf, but of martial artists.

Names

Hiro Mashima has graciously agreed to provide official English spellings for just about all of the characters in *Fairy Tail*. Because this version of *Fairy Tail* is the first publication of most of these spellings, there will inevitably be differences between these spellings and some of the fan interpretations that may have spread throughout the Web or in other fan circles. Rest assured that the spellings contained in this book are the spellings that Mashima-sensei wanted for *Fairy Tail*.

Bento, page 34

The traditional boxed lunch of Japan usually features a main course on a bed of rice and includes pickled veggies, salad, cooked egg, and other foods along with sweet beans for dessert. Women are known for waking up early and fixing elaborate bento boxes. Single girls prepare them for themselves or their boyfriends, while mothers fix bento boxes for their children's school lunches.



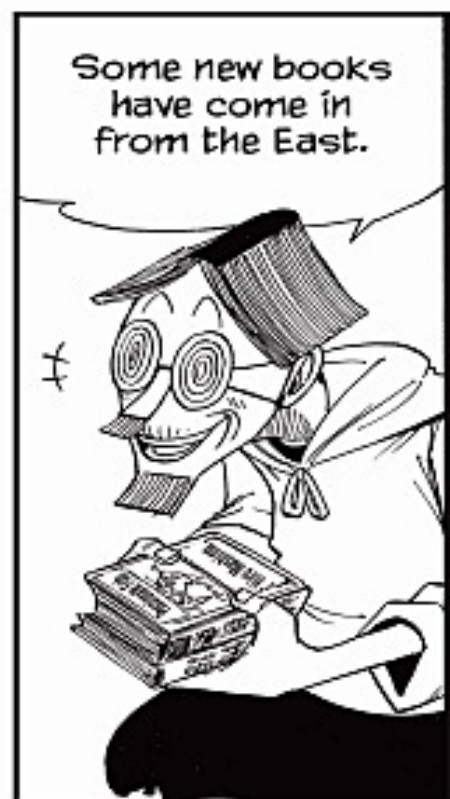
Feminist, page 36

In America, the word "feminist" has taken on nuances of a radical activist for women's rights. In Japan, the connotations are much broader, spanning the range from activist to someone who simply likes women.



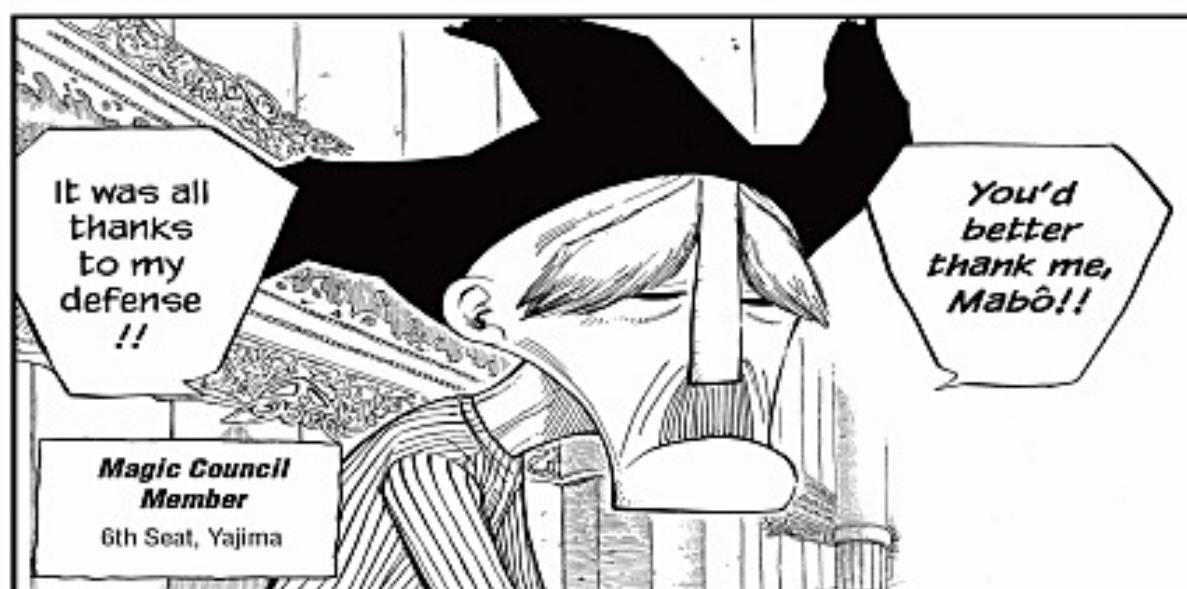
Passionate Fish, page 45

The title of the top book the librarian is holding was written in Japanese, *Jōnetsu-gyo*, which means "Passionate Fish" or "Passion Fish." One might assume that, as translator, I would use the name of the movie, *Passion Fish*, for the translation, but it did not seem appropriate in this instance. When the movie came out, the Japanese title was not in Japanese, but instead used the English words in Japanese *katakana* characters, *Passhon Fisshu*. Since Mashima-sensei didn't use the proper name for the movie title, it seemed wrong for the translation to use the proper title of the movie either.



Mabô and Yanbô, page 66

There are many types of nicknames in Japanese, and this is one example. One takes the first syllable of the name and adds *bô* to the end (or *nbô* depending on phonics and the whim of the one assigning the nickname). This is generally a nickname used by men for male friends, and although it is still heard now and again, the popularity of that nickname declined decades ago. The use of the nicknames indicate that Master Makarov and Yajima are either old, very close friends, or former classmates.



Ramen, chashu pork, page 66

The Chinese barbecue pork, *char siu*, is pronounced *chashu* in Japan, and the most common dish associated with *chashu* is ramen. One can order *chashu* Ramen as a menu item in most ramen restaurants/Chinese restaurants in Japan, or one can order extra *chashu* to be added to other ramen dishes such as Miso Ramen. *Chashu* consists of thin slices of pork (usually pork shoulder), and one usually only receives two or three slices per ramen dish.



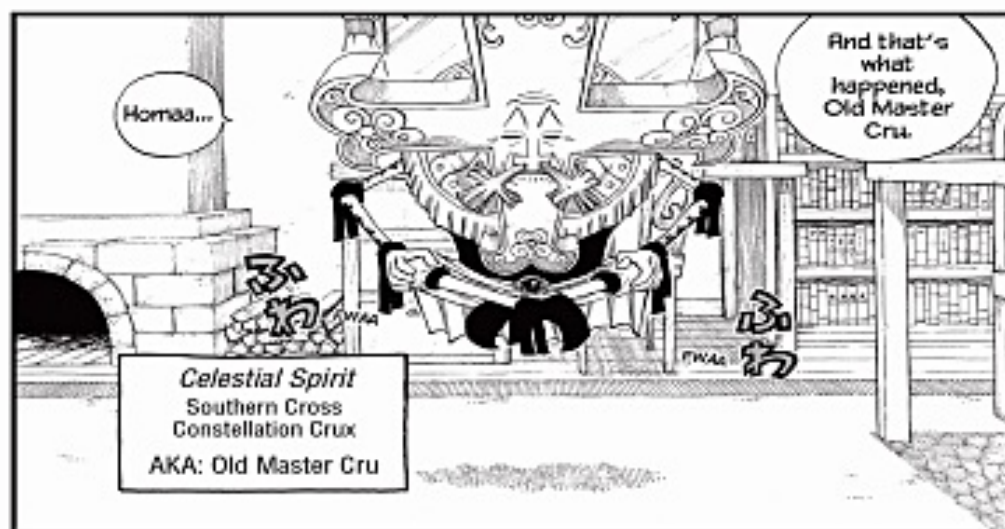
Ebb and Sea Bream, page 119

There is a phrase in Japanese, *isshin-ittai*, which means “ebb and flow.” Of course it refers to the tides, but it also indicates the ups and downs of one’s life. But in Japanese pun-loving fashion, here the normal *kanji* for *tai* has been replaced with a different *kanji*, also pronounced *tai*, but meaning “sea bream.” Not the easiest pun to try to translate, but since English has few uses for the word “ebb” in any other context than “ebb and flow,” juxtaposing “ebb and” with “sea bream” gives one the idea that someone is trying to make a joke—no matter how less-than-hilarious the pun was in this English translation.



Hmaa, page 133

This is simply one of those mumbling vocalizations that old men make in between sentences and phrases. I left the sound the same as in the Japanese.



Memphis Ring, page 150

The Memphis Ring is a magic item that can be found in the Japanese massively multi-player role-playing game (MMRPG), Strugarden Neo. The item is a finger ring with enough power to defeat a boss in the game.



Old Friend, page 178

In Japanese, the celestial spirit king used the term *furuki tomo*, which is a rather archaic way of saying "old friend." I was unable to find any other instances where this phrase was used in Japanese history or literature, so I can't claim to be an expert in the nuances of this phrase. Only that he used it as a way of saying "you" in the Japanese—even to Lucy who he had just met. The rest of his speech was rather archaic as well, and so the translation used "thees," "thous," and similar language to convey that concept.





Photo of the Mashima Group and Yoshikawa Group combined.

I've been hanging out with Miki Yoshikawa-sensei (I usually follow her name with "-chan" but...) for more than five years. She has been a good friend at times, and at other times a good rival. Although she started in manga after me, she's a well-respected member of my circle of friends. Since we're both so busy, we are only able to hang out together once or twice a year, but during the times we can get both of our groups together, it's really fun! On the day of this picture, we were playing video games from the morning on....What a great group of adults, huh? Ah ha ha ha!! They were really fun people!

—Hiro Mashima

Honorifics Explained

Throughout the Kodansha Comics books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Kodansha not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Kodansha Comics.

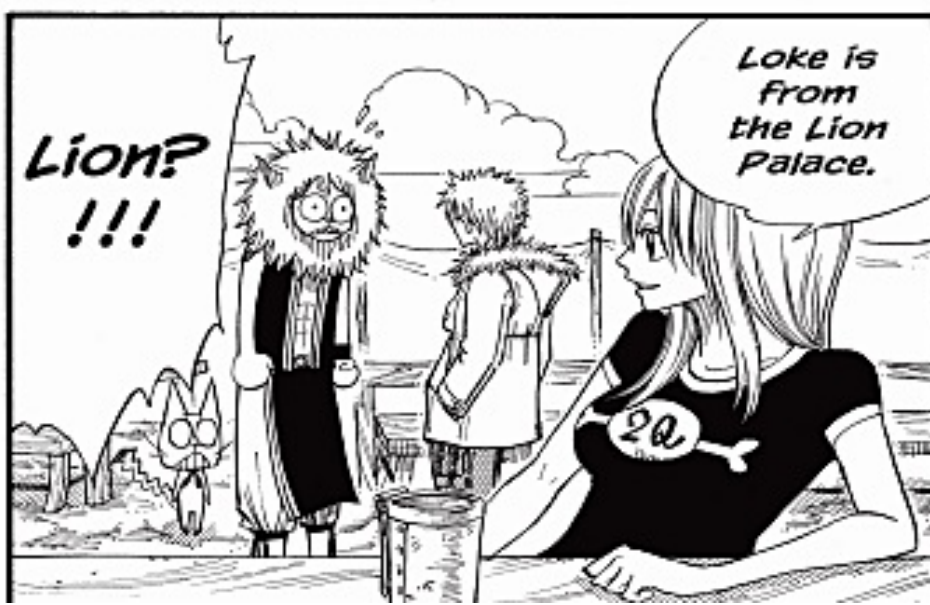
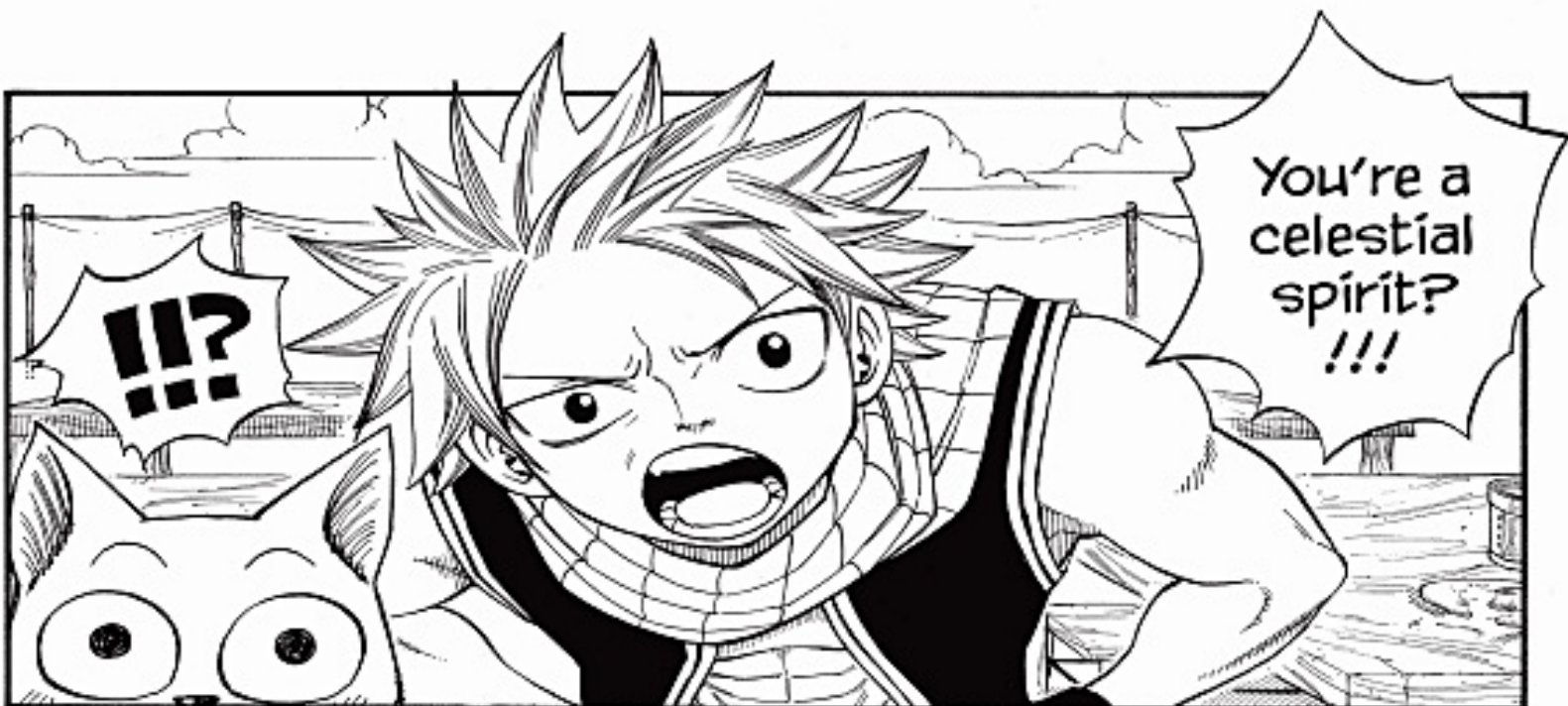
- san:** This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.
- sama:** This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.
- dono:** This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

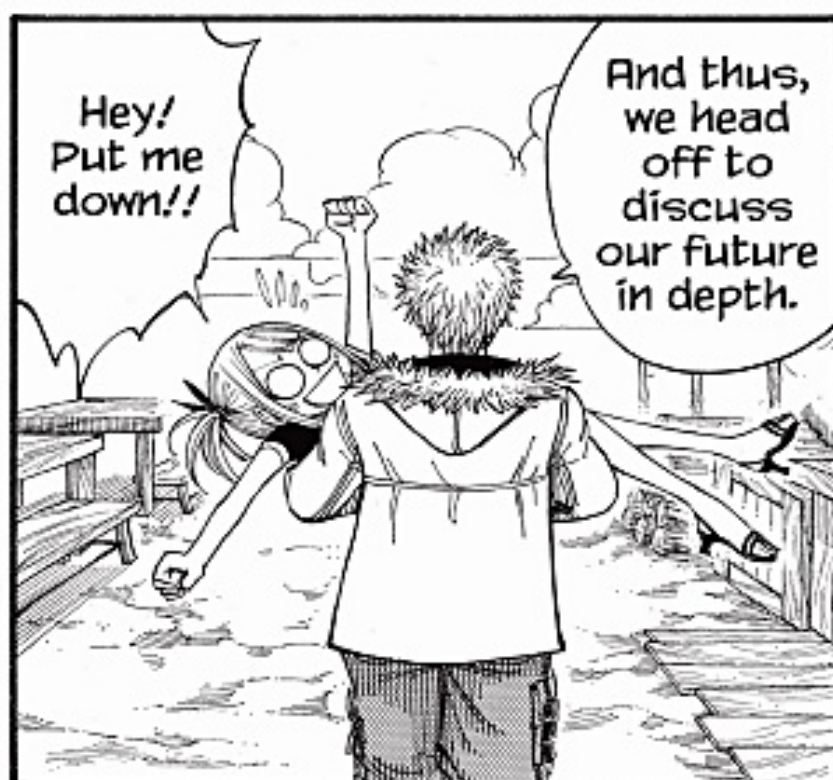
- kun:** This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.
- chan:** This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even between lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.
- Bozu:** This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."
- Sempai/
Senpai:** This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.
- Kohai:** This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.
- Sensei:** Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.
- [blank]:** This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

Preview of Volume 10

We're pleased to present you with a preview from volume 10, now available from Kodansha Comics. Check out our Web site (www.kodanshacomics.com) for more details!









You can go home now.

Absolutely true! Celestial spirits are meant for love!



Celestial wizards don't use their spirits as punching bags or sparring partners!!

Here I am, knowing everything a guy needs to know to be a dragon slayer! But what's the point if I don't have a dragon to fight with?!

A dragon!! What else?!!



Here!



Wait just a minute!



These are tickets to a resort hotel I intended to go to with my girlfriends, but now...

I can't spend long amounts of time in the human world anymore...



What are these?



At
the
seaside
!!!



Since I
feel that
I owe you
people...

...they're
yours.
Go and
have fun!



Yaay
!!!

So have
fun, every-
body!

I've
already
given a
ticket to
Erza.

まじ
だん



I've never
stayed at
a hotel as
expensive as
this!!

Oooooh
!!!!



That was
way too
fast!!!!

GWAAAM

Do you
want to
get left
behind?

So what
are you all
standing
there for?

RATTLE

RATTLE

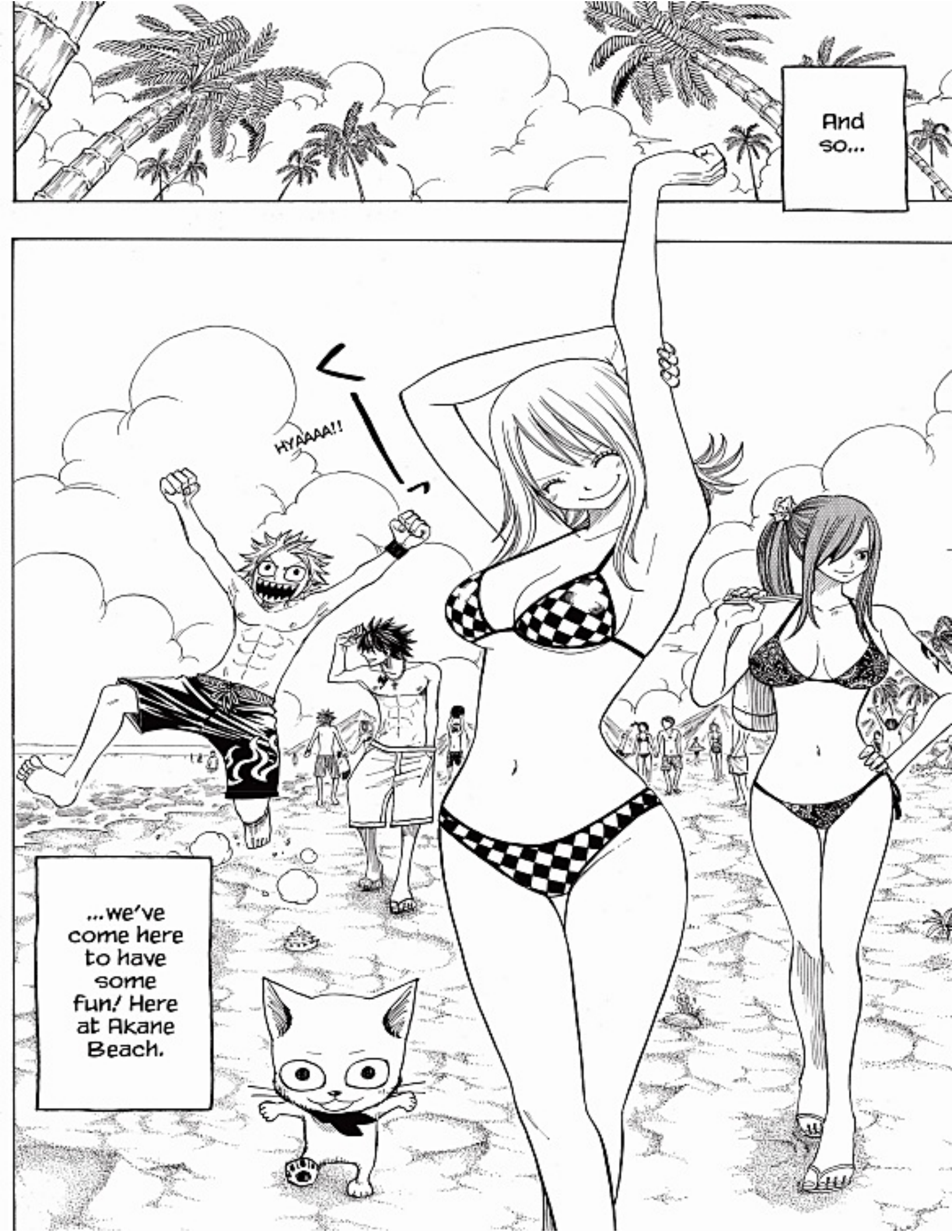
CLATTER

CLATTER

And
so...

HYAAAA!!

...we've
come here
to have
some
fun! Here
at Akane
Beach.



Fairy Tail volume 9 is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

A Kodansha Comics trade Paperback Original

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Published in the United States by Kodansha Comics, an imprint of Kodansha USA Publishing, LLC., New York.

Publication rights for this English edition arranged through Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.

First published in Japan in 2008 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo

ISBN 978-1-612-62280-4

Printed in the United States of America

www.kodanshacomics.com

9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Translator/Adapter—William Flanagan
Lettering—North Market Street Graphics

TOMARE!



You're going the wrong way!

Manga is a completely different
type of reading experience.

To start at the *beginning*,
go to the *end*!

That's right! Authentic manga is read the traditional Japanese way—from right to left, exactly the opposite of how American books are read. It's easy to follow: Just go to the other end of the book and read each page—and each panel—from right side to left side, starting at the top right. Now you're experiencing manga as it was meant to be!